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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Should MPLT grant
CUC's loan
application for \$4.5
million so it could
rent power engines
from Aggreko to
stabilize Saipan's
power supply?

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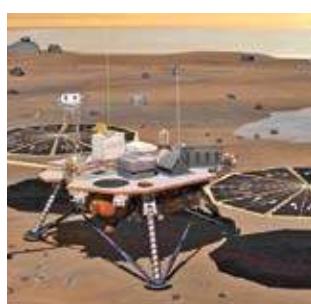
INSIDE



Total Failure

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi calls Bush 'a total failure' in everything from the economy to the war to energy policy.

NATION...Page 10



Red Planet

Discoveries on Mars are telling us much more than we have ever known about Earth's closest neighbor.

YOUNGSTYLE...Page 17



Emmy Nods

AMC's "Mad Men" and FX's "Damages" snared historic best-series Emmy nominations Thursday.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Pew ramps up marine monument campaign. PAGE 2
Deadline ends for PSS commissioner applicants. PAGE 3

Lawmakers OK \$3.4M for CUC

Fitial expected to approve bill on Monday

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lawmakers rushed to passage yesterday a bill earmarking \$3.4 million to help the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. pay for temporary power and settle its debts to two contractors.

The bill, introduced on the floor of the House of Representatives for the first time yesterday, sailed through the Lower House by a 12-6 vote. The bill was immediately sent to the Senate, which

See LAWMAKERS on Page 4



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Antonio Muna talks to Senate members during yesterday's special session at the Senate chamber on Capitol Hill.

FUNDING BREAKDOWN

- \$1.5-million, for Aggreko International
- \$1.1 million, for Pacific Marine Industrial Corp.
- \$800,000, for Telesource CNMI

'Aggreko deal won't boost power rates'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will be able to pay its lease payments to Aggreko International Power Projects without impacting local consumers.

See AGGREKO on Page 4



GROTTO VANDALISM

Letters "T", "O", and "N" are seen missing on the monument built in honor of the late Capt. Vicente M. Concepcion at the Grotto dive site in Marpi yesterday. Crime Stoppers is asking the community for information on any of the individual(s) involved in the vandalism of the monument.

Commerce: No pilfering at gas pumps

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

Responding to fears that gas stations are short-changing motorists by dispensing less gas than the amount for which drivers have paid, the Department of Commerce in a letter sent Friday to Rep. Stanley Torres (R-Saipan) contends that gas

stations are playing by the rules.

Torres earlier this week sent a letter to Gov. Benigno Fitial urging his administration to investigate citizen reports that local gas stations are fraudulently overcharging customers by calibrating pumps to release less fuel than station meters say they are getting. With gas

See COMMERCE on Page 4

CDC: Mississippi remains most obese state

By MIKE STOBBE
AP MEDICAL WRITER

ON THE NET

CDC study data:
<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa>

ATLANTA (AP)—The South tips the scales again as the nation's fattest region, according to a new government survey.

More than 30 percent of adults in Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee are considered obese. In part, experts blame Southern eating habits, poverty and demographic groups that have higher obesity rates.

Colorado was the least obese, with about 19 percent fitting that category in a random telephone survey done last year by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

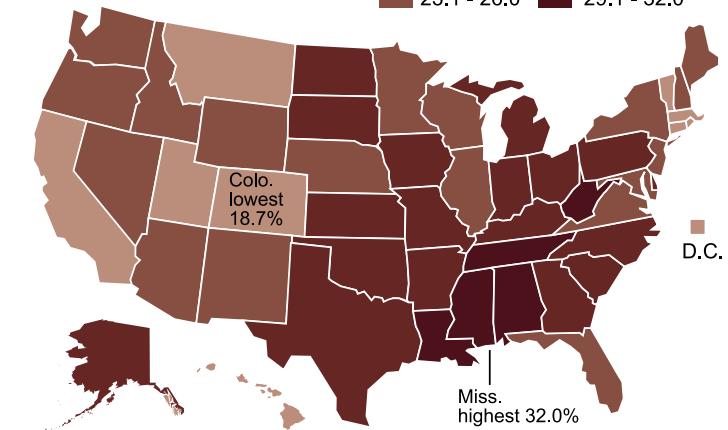
See CDC on Page 4

Obesity more common in the South

The South is the nation's fattest region with three of the top five states reporting an obesity rate greater than 30 percent in 2007.

U.S. obesity prevalence, 2007

18.7 - 23.0	26.1 - 29.0
23.1 - 26.0	29.1 - 32.0



SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

AP

Local

Pew ramps up marine monument campaign

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

Staff with the Pew Charitable Trust are ramping up efforts to rally public support for a proposed national marine monument in the Commonwealth's northern waters ahead of the release of a major scientific report with new data on the region's biodiversity.

The proposal—Pew's response to a request by the White House for suggestions on potential monument locations to cement President Bush's so-called "blue legacy" of ocean conservation—has proven controversial as many local officials and residents who say it would

intrude on the Commonwealth's authority to regulate marine resources. Proponents of the monument, however, say it will preserve a unique ecosystem for the future and bolster the CNMI's struggling economy.

The White House is expected to issue a decision in the near future on whether federal officials will conduct a preliminary assessment of the region's ecosystem, the first step towards its possible preservation.

Earlier this week, local Pew staff coordinator Angelo Villagomez and former Guam senator John Salas traveled to Tinian and Rota to present the findings of a recently finalized economic analysis that says the proposed

monument could draw scores of new visitors every year to the CNMI and spur millions in added tourism spending. A Pew staff member from Washington, DC, meanwhile is now on Saipan to meet with local business leaders, lawmakers and supporters of the proposal.

Villagomez in an interview said the presentations, held at the Fleming Restaurant on Tinian and at Rota's roundhouse, saw significant public interest and drew a host of questions from the islands' residents.

"Probably, this is going to be the first of several meetings on Tinian and Rota to find out what questions people have about the monument and what we can do

to help them get those answers," Villagomez said.

The presentations come as Pew staff are finishing a scientific report on the proposal based on never before released National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Navy data on the northern islands that, he said, reveals a much fuller picture of the area's wildlife than previously seen.

For example, the report cites a Navy survey conducted in 2007 that notes 19 species of whales and dolphins in the proposed monument's waters, Villagomez said, adding that the diversity of the region's mammals merits federal protection. In contrast, Villagomez pointed to a CNMI Department of Fish and Wildlife report saying that only one marine mammal species in the area, the spinner dolphin, has "special conservation needs." On Thursday, a Fish and Wildlife official declined to comment on any findings in the Pew

report until its official release.

Meanwhile, whether the campaign for the monument will draw added supporters on Tinian remains in doubt as the island's mayor has already voiced opposition to the plan. In a June 12 letter to the White House, Mayor Jose San Nicolas said the monument would cost local businesses the right to extract natural resources from the waters within its proposed boundaries and the loss of those rights "far outweigh any benefits being touted by Pew."

Local traditions, he added, "are based on a long history of cultural use of natural resources and I find the monument proposal to be contrary to our basic way of life."

Moreover, San Nicolas urged the White House to keep the existing regulatory scheme—controlled by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service—in place as "these agencies are more sen-

sitive to Pacific Islanders' way of life and our traditional and sustainable approach in the use of our natural resources."

Rep. Stanley Torres (R-Saipan) in an interview Thursday echoed many of the mayor's sentiments, saying the Pew organization cannot guarantee that federal rules will safeguard the rights of local people in the waters at issue and that current regulations are sufficient to protect the region.

"They have no business negotiating with us," Torres said, adding that the plan will benefit environmentalists but not the CNMI. "This is a one-sided proposal."

However, Matt Rand, director of Pew's Ocean Legacy program, said the organization and the White House are listening to the concerns locals have about the proposal and are taking them into account.

"There are concerns that local citizens have, we know that," Rand said. "The White House will look at those concerns but also the potential economic and ecological benefits it will have and the folks who do support it."

Lizama endorses Inos' as his replacement

Retired Judge Juan T. Lizama has endorsed the governor's choice for his replacement at the CNMI Superior Court.

Lizama in a letter to Senate President Pete P. Reyes has urged the Upper House to confirm attorney Perry Inos' nomination to serve as associate judge of the Superior Court.

"I believe he is one of the strongest candidates to serve as an associate judge. Mr. Inos brings a welcome combination of demonstrated legal experience, mentoring skills, and

judicious temperament. These are essential qualities for any successful judge," said Lizama, who retired in May 2008 to run for congressional delegate this election.

Lizama said he makes the endorsement not only as Inos' friend, but also a former judge "who had the pleasure of observing Mr. Inos' fine legal abilities in court."

He added that Inos' teaching experience is a rare asset for the judicial position. "A judge not only must uphold and develop

the law, but also must act in a secondary role as a teacher. A judge needs effective teaching skills to help foster attorney growth and to mentor the law clerks who will serve under him," said Lizama.

Inos' nomination to the bench is awaiting Senate confirmation. If confirmed, he will serve for six years.

Inos has been in private practice since 1997. He attended the University of New Mexico School of Law and received his law degree in 1994. (Agnes E. Donato)



SIGNATURE DRIVE

Residents sign the petition to apply the Open Government Act to the Legislature outside the Chacha Oceanview Jr. High School in Kagman Thursday afternoon.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



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pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter of) FCD GU
The Petition for to Appoint) CIVIL ACTION
General Guardianship For:) NO. 08-0394
T.F.S.)
Minor Child)
By:) NOTICE
ANA MAGOFNA SABLАН,) OF HEARING
Petitioner.)

)

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing in July 29, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 15th day of July, 2008.

Bernadita Sablan
Clerk of Court
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Lee T. Lieto and
Dellina R. Lieto
P.O. Box 502842,
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 256-4335

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter of) FCD GU
the Petition for the) CIVIL ACTION
Appointment of) NO. 08-0401
Legal Guardianship For:)
BRANDON REYES LIETO) ORDER
A Minor Child) SHORTENING
By:) TIME and
LEE LIETO and DELLINA R. LIETO,) NOTICE OF
Petitioners.) HEARING
FRANCELLA K. REYES-WHITE)
Respondent.)

)

GOOD CAUSE APPEARING, It is hereby ordered that the time for notice of hearing for Petitioner(s) petition be shortened and that the hearing be set on July 29, 2008, at 1:30 p.m.

Dated this 17th day of July, 2008.

/s/ KENNETH L. GOVENDO,
Associate Judge

Deadline ends for PSS commissioner applicants

By CAROLINE L. LOCHABAY
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The submission period for applications for the recently vacated position of Education Commissioner for the Public School System ended at the close of business yesterday.

Though the release of names of the applicants is expected Monday, one sure bid is that of former CNMI Board of Education teacher representative Ambrose M. Bennett, who spoke yesterday with the *Saipan Tribune*.

"[The opportunity to apply for the position] was the last thing from my mind. I never dreamed that I would have the opportunity," he said. "I believe that this is bigger than me, the circumstances that have led to me having the op-

portunity prove that."

The "circumstances" refer to the recent Board-prompted resignation of previous Commissioner David M. Borja, who tendered his resignation earlier this year amid controversy surrounding his fulfillment of the post's qualification requirements.

The position of commissioner comes with a four-year appointment, a collection of highly demanding duties, and a slew of challenging qualification requirements to ensure the appointment of an experienced, competent individual.

The requirements include a "master's degree in some field of education from an accredited college or university," as well as, "at least five years experience in teaching or education adminis-

tration." Both requirements are inscribed in the by-laws of the Board of Education.

According to Board of Education chair Lucia Linda Blanco-Maraitita, the selection pro-



Bennett



Blanco-Maraitita

must have a "demonstrated... commitment to educational excellence," as well as the ability to "demonstrate knowledge and experience in applying current education research and practices and a clear record of improving student achievement."

When asked if he believes himself possessing the qualities necessary to become the system's new Commissioner, Bennett said, "I think I should be one of the best choices...I know that I'm a winner."

Bennett disclosed the link between his confidence in his ability and the "support I've been getting from teachers, staff and people in the community... at all economic and social levels."

The former teacher representative, who submitted close to 15 pages of references for the posi-

tion, said he is ready to serve "at the pleasure of the Board."

"I believe there should be a controlling agency over the Commissioner. If [the Commissioner] can't satisfy [the Board's] expectations, we need a new leader," he said. "The new board saw fit to change the leadership, so we have to follow their decision. I think we have one of the best

boards now that we have had in a long time. I really do."

Bennett chose not to elaborate on his platform should he be chosen, but stated, "I do have ideas for change and improvement."

According to Blanco-Maraitita, the board will meet next week to evaluate the applicants and hopes to come to a decision by Aug. 1, before the beginning of PSS' 2008-2009 school year.

World Resort hosts Rotary's 'Las Vegas Night' tonight

The Rotary Club of Saipan will host its annual fundraising event, "Las Vegas Night," tonight from 7pm to midnight at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

The event will feature Blackjack, Roulette tables, Craps, Texas Hold 'Em poker, and kina.

The grand prize winner will have a choice of \$10,000 cash prize or a brand-new car. This year's prizes are \$3,000, \$2,000 and \$1,000 for first, second and third places. Fourth and fifth place winners will each receive \$500.

Tickets are available at the door for \$5, with the special promotion of \$20 for a bundle of five tickets.

The funds raised will go to several Rotary projects, including the Baby Care Project, the Skate Park Project in September, the Kagman Community Park Children's Playground in October and the Parade of Books next March.

The presentation of prizes will be held at a later date, and winners will be contacted after the event.

Participants must be 18 or older to gamble, but attendees of any age may participate in the raffle.

"Last year, over 300 came. This year, the place can only accommodate 400 people, [so] we are aiming for the same number," said Rotary Club president Ben Babauta. (*Jacqueline Dela Cruz*)



SHRM MONTHLY MEETING

Melvin L. Grey, director of Immigration for the CNMI, speaks on how businesses can prepare for the federalization of local immigration during the Society for Human Resource Management meeting at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club Thursday.

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Health chief vows action on Nursing Board

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

After scores of complaints by nurses citing major delays in winning approvals for professional certifications by the Saipan Board of Nursing, Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez promised action to improve its service.

Another guest workers' forum set today

The Coalition of United Workers (NMI) is organizing the second in a series of forum today at Kilili Beach. This time around, the Bangladeshi, Nepalese, Indian and Sri Lankan com-

"The complaints, coming from as far away as New York, really are being taken seriously and we are planning to address them," Villagomez said in an interview Wednesday. "We cannot continue to tolerate this."

The nursing board is tasked with regulating nurses' professional accreditation and with giving them the approvals they need to work in hos-

pitals elsewhere in the United States. However, government sources say the board is suffering from a severe staffing shortage and a host of other organizational problems. Consequently, many nurses that seek approvals from the board are forced wait long periods for a response.

Erwin Bedia, the sister of one nurse seeking a license renewal from the

"This kind of treatment cannot continue," Villagomez said. "People have paid to get their nursing licenses here and we have to address these claims and give them results. We're really looking into this issue."

Meanwhile, the Health Care Professions Licensing Board announced Friday it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on Thursday, July 24, 2008 at 3:00pm on Saipan. The meeting will be at Secretary's Conference Room 2 in the Dr. Jose T. Villagomez Center for Public Health and Dialysis Center on Lower Navy Hill.

munities will have an opportunity to meet with Federal Labor Ombudsman Jim Benedetto. Rep. Tina Sablan is also expected to attend the forum.

Registration starts at 8:30am. The

Bangladeshi community headed by Rabby Syed will host a luncheon for the participants after the forum.

Interested parties may contact Rabby at 285 3306 or Irene at 483 6867. (PR)

private sector" she said.

She said the Ministry of Health and the PSC have to act fast to keep our nurses in Fiji as this is one of the biggest factors affecting the state run medical services.

Lutua added that nurses have been holding the fort and not enough work has been done to keep them in the country.

"There will be close to four million nursing jobs available in the next ten years, why would our nurses stay back and get mistreated when they can make thousands more abroad."

state with a reputation for exercise. It has plentiful biking and hiking trails, and an elevation that causes the body to labor a bit more, Dietz said.

Obesity is based on the body mass index, a calculation using height and weight. A 5-foot, 9-inch adult who weighs 203 pounds would have a BMI of 30, which is considered the threshold for obesity.

CDC officials believe the telephone survey of 350,000 adults offers conservative estimates of obesity rates, because it's based on what respondents said about their height and weight. Men commonly overstate their height and women often lowball their weight, health experts say.

"The heavier you are, the more you underestimate your weight, probably because you don't weigh yourself as often," Dietz said.

Overall, about 26 percent of the respondents were obese, according to the study, published this week in CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

board, said her efforts to get answers from its offices have seen countless roadblocks. "I've tried now for three months," she said in an e-mail. "The Saipan Board of Nursing caters to numerous nurses all over United States and, being a professional office, this behavior is not acceptable."

Villagomez confirmed that the primary problem the board faces now is staffing and to resolve it, the board's offices will soon be moved closer to those of the Department of Public Health so its staff can share the board's workload.

AGGREKO

From Page 1

ers' power bills.

CUC executive director Antonio Muna said their analysis indicates that, with increasing usage due to 24-hour power and costs savings as a result of not having to implement load shedding, the utility agency can pay its Aggreko lease without impacting power rates.

Muna told *Saipan Tribune* that he shares *MP Magazine* publisher Ed Propst's concerns that there may be a power rate increase as a result of engaging Aggreko's services.

COMMERCE

From Page 1

prices on the rise, Torres said, consumers need reassurance that they are getting the correct amount of fuel.

"Even a very small error in the calibration of a pump can mean hundreds of gallons of fuel being charged to customers but not delivered," Torres wrote on Monday.

In a response letter, Commerce Secretary James Santos said that based on his department's periodic monitoring of gas stations—conducted by measuring the output of pumps with a specialized "prover" tank—all gas pumps are operating within regulations and dispensing an accurate amount of fuel.

"[A]ll the pumps are within the acceptable tolerance requirement" established by the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology," Santos writes in the letter.

er outages continue. "The government is paying people even during hours they cannot work due to power outage. At the same time, we're losing out on taxes because the businesses cannot operate. Let's look at this from the economic perspective," he said.

Opponents of the bill said that passage of the legislation is tantamount to endorsing CUC's failed contracts and other past mistakes.

Rep. Heinz Hofsneider criticized CUC for executing the Aggreko contract even though there was no money to pay for it. He also questioned the legality of reviving the two-year-old procurement process that eventually led to Aggreko's contract.

Rep. Edward Salas said he was not convinced that the lease of generators is the best available solution to the power crisis. He cited the rehabilitation of Power Plant 2 as a possible alternative.

In addition, Santos detailed the department's rigorous process of monitoring gas pumps, which is conducted by dispensing gas into a tank in the presence of a Commerce official, who then checks the output and places a seal on the pump to prevent tampering with the calibration. Pumps that fail to meet the output requirements are shut down, he added.

Commerce's letter comes as gas prices on Saipan have jumped to \$5.05 per gallon—the highest in the United States -- due to the skyrocketing global price of crude oil, which fell sharply this week to \$129 after record highs earlier this month. The average gas price on the U.S. mainland, according to AAA, on Friday stood at \$4.14 per gallon, \$1.11 above the national average on the same date in 2007.

To ensure good output at gas stations, Santos noted in his letter, motorists should put gas in their cars in the early morning hours or evenings when temperatures are cooler.

In 2006, CUC hired the Commonwealth Industrial Supply Co. Inc. to repair Power Plant 2 at a cost of nearly \$900,000. CISCO failed to fix the engines. Authorities are now investigating the contract.

CUC's credibility was a major concern for Rep. Tina Sablan, who suggested that CUC should not be trusted with another bailout money until the utility provides updated financial statements and a clear plan for solving its financial troubles. "The Legislature just keeps pouring money into CUC with no end in sight," she said.

Hofsneider, Salas and Sablan, along with Reps. Rosemond Santos, Joseph James Camacho, and Francisco Dela Cruz, voted against the bill. Reps. Ralph Torres and Ray Yumul were absent.

The Senate debated on the bill for about an hour before passing it. Sen. Luis Crisostimo abstained.

Fiji losing nurses to overseas employers

SUVA, Fiji (Fijilive/PIR)—Fiji is losing 75 in every 100 graduate nurses each year to overseas employers, according to the Fiji Nurses Association.

FNA general secretary Kuini Lutua says the brain drain was normal, but the new hard line taken by the interim Government is adding fuel to the fire.

"It's getting worse, there has been no increment, certain allowances are not being paid and then there is the whole backpay issue."

CDC

From Page 1

The 2007 findings are similar to results from the same survey the three previous years. Mississippi has had the highest obesity rate every year since 2004. But Alabama, Tennessee, West Virginia and Louisiana have also clustered near the top of the list, often so close that the difference between their rates and Mississippi's may not be statistically significant.

The South has had high death rates from heart disease and stroke, health risks that have been linked to obesity, some experts noted.

The CDC study only surveyed adults, but results for kids are similar, said Dr. Miriam Vos, assistant professor of pediatrics at Atlanta's Emory School of Medicine.

"Most of the studies of obesity and children show the South has the highest rates as well," Vos said.

LAWMAKERS

From Page 1

passed the bill with five votes and one abstention.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial had intended to sign the bill into law yesterday, but the measure was not transmitted to the Governor's Office in time. The legislation is expected to become law on Monday.

The measure, titled the "Emergency Power Generation Act of 2008," earmarks the Marianas Public Land Trust's earnings for the next two fiscal years to CUC. MPLT, which is tasked with investing money collected from the use of public lands, remits approximately \$1.7 million a year to the central government for appropriation by the Legislature.

Specifically, the bill appropriates

Why is the South so heavy? The traditional Southern diet—high in fat and fried food—may be part of the answer, said Dr. William Dietz, who heads CDC's nutrition, physical activity and obesity division.

The South also has a large concentration of rural residents and black women—two groups that tend to have higher obesity rates, he said.

The study found that about 36 percent of black survey participants were obese, while 28.5 percent of Hispanics and 24.5 percent of whites were.

High poverty rates in the South probably are another factor, said Naa Oyo Kwate, assistant professor of sociomedical sciences at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health.

In today's America, poor people tend to be obese: The cheapest foods tend to be calorie-heavy, and stores offering healthier, and more expensive, food choices are not often found in poor neighborhoods, she said.

And why is Colorado so thin? It's a

\$1.5-million for Aggreko International, which CUC has hired to provide up to 15 MW of emergency power to Saipan. Aggreko won't bring the rental generators into the island until CUC makes a down payment of \$1.5 million.

The bill also sets aside \$1.1 million for CUC's debt to Pacific Marine Industrial Corp., which runs Power Plant 4 on Saipan, and \$800,000 for CUC's debt to Telesource CNMI, which operates the power plant on Tinian.

The bill also requires CUC to return the money by starting a residential consumer program within 18 months of the bill becoming law. A total of \$3.4 million should be paid in consumer rebates over a three-year period—or by January 2013 at the latest.

Proponents of the legislation believe that CUC will be able to provide 24-hour power service once the rental generators are operational. They also

argue that the availability of emergency power will buy CUC additional time to repair its engines.

Currently, CUC generates only two-thirds of Saipan's power demand. Power Plants 1 and 4 produce a total of 27.2 MW, while the peak demand is 41 MW. As a result, Saipan residents are plagued by at least two hours of power outages a day.

Rep. Diego T. Benavente, who voted in support of the bill, said the situation calls for an emergency solution. "There must be a long-term solution to the CUC problem, but for now, we have to look at the current situation. CUC needs this money to avoid power outages, and to keep PMIC from shutting down and taking more generation capacity away," he said.

Rep. Joseph Reyes, also a supporter of the bill, said the government will lose more than \$3.4 million if the pow-

Contract provision violating Article XII struck down

The Commonwealth Supreme Court, in a unanimous decision, deemed unconstitutional the practice of collecting rent beyond a 55-year period, holding that such a practice violates Article XII of the CNMI Constitution and ordering that such provisions must be removed from contracts. The rest of the contractual provision—for-giveness of a third party debt by allowing one party to repay another party's debt, which could then be recouped with interest—was left intact.

The case arose from a contractual dispute between Jing Yu Guan Stephanson and Vincente I. Teregeyo. Stephanson agreed to repay Teregeyo's loan from the Small Business Administration. In exchange, Teregeyo agreed to repay Stephanson plus interest, either directly or by allowing her to collect rent from a property he owned. Article XII of the Commonwealth Constitution does not allow persons of non-Northern

DEQ to hold informative spill prevention training

The Division of Environmental Quality will hold an informative training and outreach presentation to cover recent changes, amendments and updates to the regulation on Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures.

The training will run from July 9 to 21, 2008.

The training and outreach presentation is scheduled for Monday, July 21, at the Coastal Resources Management Office from 1pm to 4pm.

Pete Reich and Norwood Scott, both of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 Oil Program, will

Mariana Islands descent to hold property rights beyond fifty-five years. Stephanson is not a person of NMI descent. The Supreme Court held that assigning the right to collect rent constitutes a property right, and, accordingly, determined that the assignment violated the Commonwealth Constitution. However, using the standards set forth in *Diamond Hotel Co., Ltd. v. Matsunaga*, the Supreme Court ruled that, because the parties had agreed that any illegal portion of the contract could be severed, and because the assignment of the right to collect rent was one of two ways the debt could be repaid, the clause could be severed from the rest of the contract. With the offending clause removed, the Supreme Court determined that the agreement could stand.

The Supreme Court also held that Stephanson's promise to forgive a third party debt was adequate consideration for her

repayment of Teregeyo's Small Business Association loan, for which she would be re-compensated with interest. The Supreme

Court remanded the attorney's fees issue to the Superior Court to be re-determined to include the costs of the appeal.

The Supreme Court opinion was issued by Justice Alejandro C. Castro, Chief Justice Robert J. Torres, Jr. of the Guam Su-

preme Court and former Commonwealth Supreme Court Justice Jesus C. Borja, sitting as pro tem justices. (PR)

UOG student learns about MVA, NMI tourism

A University of Guam student, Charlene Amado, recently ended her internship at the Marianas Visitors Authority, focusing on her majors, tourism and human resources management.

Amado spent three weeks with the marketing division of MVA, learning about the key markets for the CNMI. She was exposed to the work put into developing these markets, and witnessed all the work put into the CNMI's tourism industry. Amado also spent two weeks with the personnel and administration division and learned as well as experienced the everyday work of the division. She gained hands-on experience with the responsibilities of the division.

Amado, a Kagman High School graduate, learned that the tourism industry is not as easy as what she had learned in class. She also learned that in human resources, managing people is not easy as one might think.

"Marketing a location is a lot more difficult than promoting



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A certificate of appreciation is presented to Charlene Amado, second from left, by MVA staff, from left, MVA's Judy Torres, Perry Tenorio, and Polly Deleon Guerrero

a product and human resources is not as easy as it seems," said Amado. "My overall experience was great! I really liked the working environment because it has a friendly yet professional atmosphere. If I was given an opportunity to work at MVA in

the future, I would take it."

MVA Personnel manager Polly Deleon Guerrero said that educating students about the CNMI tourism industry is a primary goal of the MVA and serves as one of the agency's outreach programs.

"We are happy that MVA had the opportunity to work with Charlene. As an integral part of our outreach program we continue to encourage our youth to learn more about MVA and our visitors industry as a whole," Deleon Guerrero said. (MVA)

Upward Bound celebrates 25 years



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Upward Bound students and staff pose for a photo during their trip to Rota last year.

School Library in the spring of 1988. In 1990, NMC applied for and received the competitive Upward Bound grant.

gram's success.

Previous directors for the program have included the late Baltazar Borja, the late Calistro Falig, and Jeannette Villagomez.

"What truly makes our program a triumph is our participants' drive and motivation to excel personally and academically," said Marian Tudela, director of the NMC Upward Bound Program. "The support from our alumni and the participants' parents and guardians has also been a key factor in pro-

fits and opportunities that a higher education provides."

Those who are interested in applying to the Upward Bound Program can contact Marian Tudela at mariant@nmcnet.edu or call 234-5498 Ext. 1278.

The Upward Bound Program is a federally funded program sponsored by the United States Department of Education, TRIO programs authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965. (PR)

PREL providing HIV/AIDS info training

Pacific Resources for Education and Learning has begun implementation of the Enhanced HIV/AIDS Prevention in the Pacific project. This project is supported by the National Library of Medicine and focuses on community information outreach and training.

The purpose of this project is to provide librarians, educators, public health personnel, and other community members in the U.S.-affiliated Pacific with training on how to access and retrieve reliable HIV/AIDS-prevention-related information, specifically from NLM databases and other information resources including EBSCO host databases and STAT!Ref.

Library staff will be able to attend sessions during the annual Pacific Islands Asso-

ciation of Libraries, Archives and Museums conference to be held in Yap, the Federated States of Micronesia, in November 2008.

PREL is an independent, nonprofit 501 (c)(3) corporation that works in partnership with the Pacific educational community to provide quality programs and products developed to promote educational excellence, including professional development and educational materials.

PREL serves the U.S.-affiliated Pacific, including American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap), Guam, Hawaii, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. (PREL)

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

SEC muscle, finally

The subprime mortgage meltdown has taken a toll on the financial sector, triggering the collapse of one of Wall Street's oldest firms, wild gyrations in the market and a loss of faith by investors in some institutional cornerstones. Yet the most vigorous responses have come from the Federal Reserve and the Treasury Department, not the cop on the beat -- the Securities and Exchange Commission.

This month, the SEC appeared to rouse itself from its torpor. Motivated in part by the precipitous demise of Bear Stearns Cos., the commission is investigating whether traders are spreading false rumors to manipulate the price of certain stocks. As part of that probe, it has subpoenaed data from more than 50 large hedge funds. It has also called a temporary halt to a questionable trading tactic -- "naked short selling" -- on the shares issued by 19 companies in the finance industry, including Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, whose stocks have plummeted. Some longtime critics of such sales, in which the sellers don't actually hold the shares they're unloading, say the commission should go even further and ban them on all stocks.

It's hard to defend naked shorting, which enables speculators to drive down a company's stock by offering an overwhelming number of shares for sale. And the emergency moratorium decreed Tuesday wasn't the first time the SEC sought to deter it. The commission adopted a rule four years ago to help track and restrict these sales, then tweaked it in March to more clearly criminalize abusive incidents. But traders move much faster than the SEC, meaning that the damage has already been inflicted by the time the enforcers show up.

Complicating matters is the fact that conventional short sellers don't own the shares they're selling either. The difference is that they at least make arrangements to borrow the stock (typically from brokers lending clients' shares). And although this kind of speculation doesn't exactly make the country more productive, it can help investors hedge their bets and rein in stocks whose prices rise irrationally.

That's why the emergency rule itself isn't as important as the fact that the SEC is actually responding with some alacrity to the allegations of manipulation. This is, after all, a commission that has been excruciatingly slow to identify and punish those in the securities industry whose deceptions and collusion helped fuel the subprime lending fiasco. And just last year, the commission actually made it easier for manipulators to drive down shares by eliminating a 70-year-old restriction against successive short sales. Adopting more rules won't deter bad actors if they're not convinced that the cop on the beat is paying attention.

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times



ADD in D.C.

By ROSA BROOKS
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

I want Ritalin!

Added to the water supply in Washington, I mean.

In a nation where every other 9-year-old seems to be medicated for attention deficit disorder, why do we refuse to take seriously the attention deficit disorder crisis afflicting so many of our political leaders?

Take John McCain. Immediately after 9/11, McCain shared the widespread view that the U.S. should go to war in Afghanistan to take out those responsible for the 9/11 attacks. But by late November 2001, he wanted to "move on to the next country."

Uh-huh: "Next up, Baghdad!"

Of course, we stayed in Afghanistan too, but McCain had gotten tired of it. By April 2003, he said that "nobody in Afghanistan threatens the United States of America," so we could focus instead on the shiny new war in Iraq.

"We don't read about (Afghanistan) anymore, because it's succeeded," he explained in October 2005.

But Iraq started getting boring too, so now McCain has turned his restless attention back to Afghanistan—maybe because Barack Obama keeps hammering away at the issue. Obama, who's been fairly consistent on Afghanistan for six years now, is either the rare politician who doesn't suffer from ADD, or he's smart enough to take his meds. On Tuesday, McCain released a "comprehensive strategy for victory in Afghanistan." Previous claims of success were forgotten.

"The status quo is unacceptable," McCain's campaign declared, but, "McCain will turn around the war."

Right! Until we move on to the next country! (Remember, Iran is still high on McCain's list of bright, shiny objects.) I don't mean to pick on McCain here. ADD is rampant in the corridors of power, and McCain is far from the only sufferer. George W. Bush? A case too obvious to belabor. Congress could use some Ritalin too.

And foreign policy is hardly the only area where the ADD epidemic is causing serious problems: The subprime loan crisis could probably have been nipped in the bud if anyone in power had been capable of paying attention for more than 12 seconds. And don't get me started on energy policy.

But—ahem—let's not get distracted here. Back to Afghanistan! Let's think for a minute—just a short little minute, I promise—about what it would mean to "turn around the war" in Afghanistan.

Depends what the goal is: Make Afghanistan a stable democracy? Destroy the Taliban? Eliminate the link between illicit Afghan op-

ium production and terrorist financing? Capture Osama bin Laden? No matter how you look at it, it's not going to be a job well-suited to a nation in the grip of an attention deficit disorder epidemic.

Consider the scope of the problem. In recent months, more U.S. troops have died in Afghanistan than in Iraq. According to the Los Angeles Times, in the first three months of 2008, insurgent attacks were up by nearly 40 percent in just the eastern provinces, compared with the same time period in 2007. Overall, according to the International Crisis Group, suicide bombings went up by 600 percent between 2005 and 2007, and insurgent attacks by 400 percent. The Afghan insurgents, who apparently have a plentiful supply of Ritalin, are paying close attention to successful Iraqi insurgent and terrorist tactics and studiously applying those lessons.

Meanwhile, U.S. and NATO troops operate under confusingly different rules of engagement and report to different command structures. The Afghan government remains weak and corrupt; the humanitarian situation remains fragile. And when things get hot, terrorists, Taliban and Afghan insurgents find convenient safe harbor across the border in Pakistan (one of the largest recipients of U.S. military aid), while elements of Pakistan's government turn a blind eye.

Unfortunately, we can't afford to ignore or abandon Afghanistan. With its flammable mixture of violent extremism, illicit drug profits and a tottering nuclear-armed neighbor (Pakistan), the situation there—unlike that in Iraq—presents a critical threat to U.S. and global security.

We need to make a long-term commitment to Afghanistan, but it won't be easy. At best, we'll withdraw most of our troops from Iraq within two years and redeploy many in Afghanistan, but that would still be a far cry from the 400,000 troops the outgoing commander of NATO forces in Afghanistan thinks are really needed. Bye-bye, Iraq quagmire, hello, Afghanistan quagmire! At worst, we'll need to maintain a massive troop presence in two countries at once (All Quagmire, All the Time).

And no U.S. military strategy will succeed if it's not accompanied by a regional political and diplomatic strategy: Stabilizing Afghanistan is inextricably linked to diffusing Pakistan's political crises as well. Doing this adequately will take resources and patient, sustained attention.

But don't mourn: organize! Start stockpiling that Ritalin now, folks: Whoever is in the White House next January is really going to need it.

Brooks is a professor at the Georgetown University Law Center. E-mail Brooks at rbrooks@latimescolumnists.com.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

If you can't take a joke...

By TIM RUTTEN

(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

The ancient Irish believed that a poet's satire had the power to kill the target of his scorn.

That might even have been true in the sort of traditional society where shame still was an operative emotion. It's a little harder to believe in the current American context, which is just one of the things that makes the bipartisan hysteria about this week's *New Yorker* cover rather difficult to swallow.

Just in case you've missed it, the magazine's cover is a cartoon by veteran illustrator Barry Blitt depicting Sen. Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle, in the Oval Office, presumably after his inauguration as president. Obama wears Islamic garb, including a turban, while the new first lady sports an Angela Davis-style Afro and has an AK-47 slung over her back. The couple bumps fists while an American flag burns in a fireplace whose mantel is topped by a portrait of Osama bin Laden.

Anyone with an ounce of wit and a passing acquaintance with what's been going on during this presidential campaign will recognize Blitt's illustration as a compendium of the various false and defamatory allegations about the Obamas that have been spread across the Internet in what amounts to the cyber-spatial equivalent of an old-fashioned whispering campaign: In this fanciful netherworld, the presumptive Democratic nominee is unpatriotic, a secret Muslim and an appeaser of terrorists, while his wife is an anti-American harridan whose college thesis advocated black supremacy.

New Yorker Editor David Remnick told The Huffington Post's

Rachel Sklar that, in his view, the cartoon holds "up a mirror to the prejudice and dark imaginings about Barack Obama's—both Obamas'—past, and their politics. ... The fact is, it's not a satire about Obama—it's a satire about the distortions and misconceptions and prejudices about Obama."

Obviously as all that might be, it didn't prevent a panoply of grim-faced pundits from parading across the cable news channels solemnly pronouncing the cover either offensive or unfunny. Whatever it is that makes CNN's commentators "the best political team on television," it certainly isn't a sense of humor. In fact, it was downright grotesque to see Bill Bennett and Los Angeles City Councilman Bernard C. Parks holding forth on the magazine's racial insensitivity.

In fact, I couldn't help but think that the former Los Angeles police chief's sudden emergence as an art and comedy critic might have something to do with his current race against Mark Ridley-Thomas for the county supervisor's seat in the heavily black 2nd District, where Obama probably enjoys a 98 percent approval rating among registered voters.

It's interesting that this controversy—which drew in Obama and John McCain—should have arisen in what's a kind of golden age for televised political satire. Still, in an interview with The New York Times, Comedy Central's Jon Stewart—who is as sharp a political satirist as any now working—said that jokes involving Obama often seem to fall flat with his audience. "People have a tendency to react as far as their ideology allows them," he said by way of explanation.

Maybe it's not just political correctness but our division into blindered red and blue camps that's drained humor's salutary bite from our politics.

Or perhaps it's that Blitt and Remnick are up against another, more subtle problem. The *New Yorker* is one of the last great American publications in which the long tradition of politically and socially conscious cartooning persists with any vigor. One U.S. newspaper after another has used cost-cutting as an excuse to drop its political cartoonists. Nowadays, few newspapers even bother to run political cartoons on a regular basis.

As a result, when it comes to political comment and satire, we're becoming a nation of visual illiterates.

Moreover, for all their practiced outrage, neither political camp really objects to this sort of controversy. Every news cycle dominated by what are essentially ephemera—like The *New Yorker* cover—is another 24 hours in which Obama and McCain have been spared questions about real issues.

Insults are so much easier to deal with than issues.

Last week was a perfect case in point. According to the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism, nearly a quarter (23 percent) of all the print and broadcast coverage devoted to the presidential campaign during that seven-day period went to just two stories—Jesse Jackson's sotto voce affront to Obama (13 percent) and McCain economic adviser Phil Gramm's insensitive remark about the recession being all in people's heads (10 percent).

Maybe we're not so much a humorless or overly sensitive people as we are a trivial one.

Rutten is a Times columnist. E-mail him at timothy.rutten@latimes.com.

Ticket to rating scandals

By PATT MORRISON

(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—And now—a political scandal everybody can get a handle on.

None of your forgettable Los Angeles campaign ethics violations. One city councilman was recently fined \$2,650 for naughty stuff like not turning in the script for his robocalls. Another owes \$3,000 for pocketing six campaign contributions that were more than \$500. Bad councilmen—bad!

No, sirree. I mean a political scandal as juicy as a California Red-wing peach. An ex-L.A. city commissioner is on trial for assorted felonies in what they call a pay-to-play deal. What kind of play? Leeland Wong was allegedly slipping Lakers tickets to a former deputy mayor and treating him to happy-finish massages in order to land a city contract for a shipping company the then-commissioner was working for on the side.

Sexy shiatsu! Kobe Bryant! That, people get. All misconduct matters, but it doesn't always register with the voters whose interests are getting trashed. If it doesn't have drugs or sex or rock 'n' roll (or lots of cash), it doesn't seem to click.

Test it yourself.

■ Sherman Adams, President Eisenhower's chief of staff. (An oldie but goodie.) All I remember was that he took a bribe of a vicuna coat. But why? I had to look it up: It was a gift from a textile manufacturer being investigated by the feds.

■ Jack Abramoff, lobbyist. Rings a bell, yes? Dark fedora, went to prison? He ripped off some Indians and took political bigwigs golfing in Scotland? Is it coming back to you now?

What made Abramoff a danger to democracy is the stuff that nobody but prosecutors and grand juries and investigative reporters and political junkies pay much attention to: subverting the system. Lobbying to keep the "Made in the USA" label on clothes from the Northern Mariana Islands while at the same time keeping the USA's labor regulations

out of the island's factories. Funneling millions from a Russian energy company to win votes on legislation to bail out the Russian economy.

Abramoff essentially bought and sold democracy and went to prison for it, but because he wasn't caught, oh, peeing on the crab apple trees in the White House Rose Garden, his name soon fell off the public's mental map.

Here's a perfect L.A. example. In 1993, when Department of Water and Power workers went on strike, nearly 300 managers stepped in for nine days and gorged themselves on \$800,000 worth of catered food. That was a huge scandal—made all the tastier when some of the managers got food poisoning—but nobody paid much attention to the agency's far more disturbing videotaping of the strikers' picket lines, which taxpayers also paid for.

Why do our minds discard a lot of the significant and relish the seamy? I called Ruth S. Jones of Arizona State University, who teaches a class—and is writing the book—on political scandals. She picked up on the Lakers tickets theme: "Everybody would like to have Lakers tickets. Everybody understands that. People say 'I understand what Laker tickets are. I don't understand electronic transactions to the Cayman Islands.'"

Scandals have to engage people's interest day after day to register, and very often, says Jones, the standard response to some scandal might be "Oh, that's politics"—meaning a practice that people shrug off as standard back-scratching.

How, then, to make sure the big, complicated, democracy-killing scandals get the same attention as the lurid but maybe lesser ones?

Here's what I propose:

Let's create a Scandalosity Rating System, with units everyone understands. Let's call our metrics "Dukes," "Caronas" and "Lelands." "Dukes" for onetime California Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham, who picked out antiques and let a defense lobbyist pay the bill; "Caronas" for former Orange County Sheriff Mike Carona, who allegedly received an avalanche of gifts, like World Series luxury box seats and a \$5,000 (used) Sea Ray boat, from admirers and supporters.

Under the Scandalosity Rating System, then, how serious were those recent fines for violating city ethics rules? Between them, Los Angeles council members Richard Alarcon and Herb Wesson had to pay \$5,650. One of Cunningham's antiques, a French commode, cost \$7,200—one "Duke." So the combined ethics fine would rate three-fourths of a Duke, a little more than one full "Carona," or 36 "Lelands," based on a \$132 massage.

Getting the hang of it? Try this: A couple of years ago Paul H. Richards II, the former mayor of suburban Lynwood, was sent to prison for a fraud scheme to steer city contracts to a corporation he secretly owned.

Complicated and boring, right? Not on the SRS scale! The half-million bucks he pocketed before he got caught works out to about 62 "Dukes," or about 3,700 "Lelands."

And that doesn't include the tip.

Morrison is a Times columnist and host of a daily public-affairs show on Los Angeles public radio. Her e-mail address is patt.morrison@latimes.com.

Letters to the Editor

Statement from the Saipan Postmaster

Please allow me to respond to the concerns expressed by Mr. Bruce Bateman in his July 8 column printed in your publication.

First of all, let me say that I agree with Mr. Bateman that the theft of any mail is a serious offense. All reports of mail theft are thoroughly investigated by our Postal Inspection Service. I urge any Saipan customers who have concrete concerns about mail theft to share those concerns with me, so that I can forward to the details to our Postal Inspectors. Or, customers can report their mail theft concerns directly to the Postal Inspection Service online at <http://postalinspectors.usps.gov/>

Having said that, I have seen no evidence that mail theft is ongoing reason for concern on Saipan, contrary to Mr. Bateman's statements. Mr. Bateman also suggests in his opinion piece that insuring mail reduces the chances of it being stolen. While I disagree that there is any direct correlation between insurance and theft, I do recommend that customers purchase insurance for any valuables that are mailed.

I do agree with Mr. Bateman's statement that the U.S. Postal Service is "...the best, most efficient... form of mail and package delivery on this planet. It is a pretty darned good deal to send a letter from here to Omaha or Boston, for the same price it takes to send it to Chalan Kanoa or Guam."

I am committed to providing the best possible mail and shipping service, and I welcome customer feedback about how I might better serve the residents of Saipan.

Hector Medina
Postmaster, Saipan

Another brick wall

Taotao Tano's absence on the Aggreko bill has little or no effect even if we were present. A 12-6 vote passing of the legislation to grant CUC \$4.5 million to \$6 million by 12 members of the legislative branch is beyond realm and is proof that our homeland is being oppressed and mismanaged by our own elected leaders' failure to understand the nature of corruption in our homeland. The decisions of the 12 members composed of veteran leaders both past and present is proof of total ignorance, neglect and disrespect for the people of the Commonwealth. Democracy demands that you listen and adhere to the will of the people and not their own.

Fast tracking such a questionable and uninvestigated Aggreko bill will be to the detriment of all consumers, because ultimately the consumers will see an increase in their electrical rates, reflecting Aggreko fuel surcharges. What many do not know and understand is that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. does have a 15 megawatt power plant but due to mismanagement and corruption, we no longer have that option, for the entire six engines in Power Plant 2 have been cannibalized and used in Power Plant 1, totally abandoning our investment. We believe that someone has to be held responsible and accountable for such mishaps, mismanagement and corruption.

We are dismayed by the actions of these 12 members who voted yes to such a flawed and highly questionable sole-source contract without a full investigation into what happen to our engines in Power Plant 2. Another overnight decision by our illustrious 12 member panel and shame on them for this will be an additional burden to the consumers of the Commonwealth.

"Time has turned the clock backwards" and we are heading for another brick wall.

Gregorio Cruz Jr.
President, Taotao Tano

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼76
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼78
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼74
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲89 ▼77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Thunderstorms	▲58 ▼52
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲90 ▼74
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲90 ▼81
Honolulu	Showers	▲84 ▼75
London	Showers	▲69 ▼50
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲79 ▼64
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲88 ▼79
Melbourne	Showers	▲57 ▼48
Miami	Thundershowers	▲92 ▼79
New York	Hot	▲94 ▼74
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲92 ▼78
Paris	Cloudy	▲72 ▼53
Pusan	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼77
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲85 ▼63
Salem	Sunny	▲83 ▼53
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲67 ▼55
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼77
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲85 ▼73
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲91 ▼74

Tides

Saipan Harbor	
2:34AM Today	Low Tide: 1.3 Feet
7:12AM Today	High Tide: 1.8 Feet
2:42PM Today	Low Tide: 0.3 Feet
9:45PM Today	High Tide: 1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:56AM	6:51 PM	Today	7:36PM	6:25AM
Sunday	5:56AM	6:50 PM	Sunday	8:16PM	7:17AM
Monday	5:56AM	6:50 PM	Monday	8:54PM	8:09AM
Tuesday	5:57AM	6:50 PM	Tuesday	9:31PM	9:00AM
Wednesday	5:57AM	6:50 PM	Wednesday	10:09PM	9:51AM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:56AM	6:51 PM	Today	7:36PM	6:25AM
Sunday	5:56AM	6:50 PM	Sunday	8:16PM	7:17AM
Monday	5:56AM	6:50 PM	Monday	8:54PM	8:09AM
Tuesday	5:57AM	6:50 PM	Tuesday	9:31PM	9:00AM
Wednesday	5:57AM	6:50 PM	Wednesday	10:09PM	9:51AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

■ ISLAND SNAPSHOT

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

■ BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO 9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily

CO 9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6

CO 9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota

CO 9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily

CO 9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily

CO 9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily

CO 9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily

CO 9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily

CO 9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota

CO 9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7

CO 9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily

CO 9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily

CO 9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099 5:00am 7:40am Daily

NW 078 8:55am 2:00pm Daily

NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076 10:15am 2:55pm Daily

NW 077 6:25pm 1:30am+1 Daily

NW 100 8:45pm 1:25am+1 Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083 4:20pm 7:05pm Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078 8:55am 11:35am Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077 9:00pm 1:30am+1 Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1

OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7

OZ 606 3:30pm 7

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8:10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7:30pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 19, 1999

3 federal officials in CNMI row subpoenaed

WASHINGTON—A festering partisan battle over governance of the Northern Mariana Islands erupted anew this week, as a House committee claimed it had unearthed evidence that a federal official with responsibility for the U.S. territory tried illegally to launch political attacks against top House Republicans. The House Resources Committee served subpoenas on Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt; David North, public affairs officer for Interior's Office of Insular Affairs; and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Takeover hearing pushed back

The U.S. Senate Energy and Resources Committee has delayed for a week the scheduled July 27 oversight hearing on the proposed federal takeover of CNMI in Washington D.C., rejecting an appeal by the business sector to hold it in September to coincide with the investigation by the House Resources Committee. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio confirmed Saturday the decision of the Senate Committee which was relayed to him by CNMI Representative to Washington Juan N. Babauta. The local chief executive will fly today to the Federated States of Micronesia to attend the inaugural of FSM's new president.

Anti-prostitution drive launched

Responding to the federal government's concern about the alleged proliferation of sex trade in the CNMI, the local government has stepped up its anti-prostitution drive by launching an operation last week that yielded eight suspected pimps and prostitutes. Three women and five men, all natives of China, were arrested by policemen during a dawn raid on Friday, a government lawyer said.

July 19, 2000

Business gross revenue tax up 4.8%

Indicating a modest recovery of the Northern Marianas economy, the CNMI government reported substantial growth in business gross revenue tax collected during the first eight months of the Fiscal Year 2000 from last year's figures. Department of Finance records disclosed a 4.8 percent increase in revenues generated from business gross to \$42.7 million during the period covering October 1999 to May 2000, from last year's \$40.8 million.

House rejects changes to Omnibus bill

The proposed Omnibus Labor and Business Reform Act heads into another round of review after the House of Representatives yesterday rejected amendments made by the Senate. Speaker Benigno R. Fitial, who sponsored the proposal under HB 12-39, said he will call immediately a bicameral conference meeting to iron out differences with the upper house. This is the second time in less than two months that the two chambers clash due to disagreement over legislation. The first was on the FY 2000 budget proposal that the governor later disapproved.

PIA faces \$3 million civil suit

Two Tinian residents are seeking payment of \$1 million each from the Pacific Islands Aviation for alleged psychological trauma they have been experiencing since the PIA plane that took them to Guam crashed landed in 1998. On top of this, Rosita C. Palacios and Carleen P. Mendiola are asking for punitive damages amounting to \$1 million in a civil complaint they filed before the Superior Court through their lawyer Joshua A. Berger. They want the court to hold a jury trial on the island-municipality of Tinian.

July 19, 2001

Schools plan anti-abuse lessons

Reported cases of child sexual abuse at Oleai Elementary School served as an eye-opener, pushing school administrators to plan for anti-sexual abuse lessons for students this coming school year. School officials said students may have to be educated on the difference between a "good" and a "bad" touch so they will be able to detect abuse and report it to proper authorities.

Dilapidated treatment plant may be polluting the ocean

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation admitted that overflow of wastewater from the sewer system hooked to the Agiguan treatment plant actually occurs. This happens when the sewer's pumping system fails to accommodate the volume of wastewater flowing through the sewer pipes.

Business

Coke will raise prices this fall

By VINNEE TONG
AP BUSINESS WRITER

Drinkers of Coca-Cola can expect to pay more starting this fall after the company's biggest bottler said Thursday that it would raise prices.

The issues at the bottler also hurt Coca-Cola Co.'s bottom line, since it owns about 35 percent of that business. The world's biggest beverage company said its profit fell 23 percent in the second quarter as it took a charge because of the bottler's woes.

Coca-Cola Enterprises, which has about 80 percent of the U.S. market for Coke, said it would

Oil markets: Bottoming out or taking a respite?

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices tumbled below \$130 a barrel for the first time in more than a month Thursday, as crude's dramatic slide entered a third day accompanied by a sharp sell-off in natural gas.

Oil is now more than 10 percent cheaper per barrel than it was on Monday; natural gas prices are down more than 20 percent just since the Fourth of July. Still, experts are not convinced that prices have turned a corner.

"There's no bell that tells you when the market has turned,"

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Single-family building dips to slowest in 17 years

WASHINGTON (AP)—A beat-the-deadline rush to file permits for apartment construction in New York City lifted housing starts to unexpectedly high levels in June, but it was no cause for rejoicing. Construction of single-family homes nationwide fell to the slowest pace in 17 years. Builders started work on single-family homes at an annual rate of 647,000 units last month, a drop of 5.3 percent from the previous month, the Commerce Department reported Thursday.

Microsoft 4Q profit rises, Web ad business rocky

SEATTLE (AP)—With a Yahoo Inc. search deal uncertain at best, Microsoft Corp. plans to invest hundreds of millions of dollars more than expected in the next year to whip its unprofitable online operations into shape. Microsoft said Thursday its fiscal fourth-quarter profit jumped 42 percent - or 13 percent, factoring in a hefty charge a year ago - as revenue topped \$15 billion. But due to weakness in the online business, which makes most of its money from Web advertising, the software maker missed Wall Street's earnings forecast by a penny and issued softer-than-expected guidance for the current first quarter.

Wall Street surges again on falling energy prices

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street shot higher Thursday, extending its rally into a second session as tumbling energy prices bolstered an already upbeat mood that followed stronger-than-expected quarterly reports from big names like JPMorgan Chase and United Technologies. The Dow rose 207.38, or 1.85 percent, to 11,446.66. The Standard & Poor's 500 index advanced 14.96, or 1.20 percent, to 1,260.32, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 27.45, or 1.20 percent, to 2,312.30.

Nation

'European terrorists trying to enter US'

WASHINGTON (AP)—European terrorists are trying to enter the United States with European Union passports, and there is no guarantee officials will catch them every time, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said Thursday.

Chertoff's comments on Capitol Hill comes as the country

is entering a potentially vulnerable period with the presidential nominating conventions coming up next month; the presidential election in November; and the

transition to a new administration in January—all of which may be attractive targets for terrorists.

In his last scheduled appearance before the House Homeland Security Committee, Chertoff said that the more time and space al-Qaida and its allies have to recruit, train, experiment and plan, the more problems the U.S. and Europe will face down the road.

"The terrorists are deliberately focusing on people who have legitimate Western European passports, who don't ap-

pear to have records as terrorists," Chertoff told lawmakers. "I have a good degree of confidence we can catch people coming in. But I have to tell you ...

there's no guarantee. And they are working very hard to slip by us."

Chertoff and other intelligence officials have delivered similar warnings before, and he offered no new information about specific threats or an imminent attack.

Chertoff reiterated his concern that terrorists could sneak radiological material into the

country on small boats or private aircraft. This material could be used to create an explosive device known as a "dirty bomb."

The Homeland Security Department has a strategy to protect against this small boat vulnerability and is testing radiation detection equipment in Seattle and San Diego ports.

Chertoff said that getting out a regulation to prescreen and enhance security of general aviation aircraft coming to the U.S. from overseas is one of his top priorities.

He also said he expects to approve new radiation detection technology this fall.



In this Dec. 19, 2007 file photo, President Bush stands with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi at the Energy Department in Washington.

Pelosi calls Bush 'a total failure'

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush has been a "total failure" in everything from the economy to the war to energy policy, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Thursday. In an interview on CNN, the California Democrat was asked to respond to video of the president criticizing the Democratic-led Congress for heading into the final 26 days of the legislative session without having passed a single government spending bill.

Pelosi shot back in unusually personal terms.

FDA says it's OK to eat tomatoes again

WASHINGTON (AP)—It's OK to eat all kinds of tomatoes again, the U.S. government declared Thursday—lifting its salmonella warning on the summer favorites amid signs that the record outbreak, while not over, may finally be slowing.

Hot peppers still get a caution: The people most at risk of salmonella—including the elderly and people with weak immune systems—should avoid fresh jalapenos and serranos, and any dishes that may contain them such as fresh salsa, federal health officials advised.

Investigators still don't know what caused the salmonella outbreak, which now has sickened 1,220 people in 42 states—the earliest falling ill on April 10 and the latest so far on July 4.

But Thursday's move, coming as the tomato industry estimates its losses at more than \$100 million, doesn't mean that tomatoes harvested in the

"You know, God bless him, bless his heart, president of the United States, a total failure, losing all credibility with the American people on the economy, on the war, on energy, you name the subject," Pelosi replied. She then tsk-tsked Bush for "challenging Congress when we are trying to sweep up after his mess over and over and over again."

White House spokeswoman Dana Perino defended Bush.

"What the president said is a fact - this is the longest a Congress has gone in 20 years with-

out passing a single spending bill, so it's clear that the speaker is feeling some frustration at their inability to do so."

Pelosi's outburst was a departure. Her usual practice in public has been to call Bush's policies a failure—not his presidency or him, personally. Pelosi's remarks are the latest evidence of the Democrats' throw-caution-to-the-wind approach to Bush in the waning days of a presidency weighed down by an unpopular war and soaring gasoline prices.

The new figures underscore the Illinois senator's status as a fund-

raising star. He has raised \$340 million during his presidential run to McCain's \$132 million.

Obama's June total also reversed a three-month decline and helped close a cash-on-hand gap between the Democratic and Republican presidential operations. Together, Obama and the Democratic National Committee had \$92 million in the bank at the end of June compared with \$96 million for McCain and the Republican National Committee.

But the totals also set a tough new standard for Obama's presidential campaign: The \$52 million he raised in June is now a baseline, not a high water mark.

"For him to maintain the pace



In this June 10, 2008 file photo, showing Canadian Hot House Tomatoes at a produce seller at the Reading Terminal Market in Philadelphia.

spring are cleared. It just means that the tomatoes in fields and stores today are safe to eat, said Dr. David Acheson, the Food and Drug Administration's food safety chief.

"This is not saying that anybody was absolved," Acheson said. But, "as of today, FDA officials believe that consumers may now enjoy all types of fresh tomatoes available without concern of becoming infected with salmonella Saintpaul," the outbreak strain.

Early on, there was good evidence linking certain raw tomatoes to the sick, Acheson stressed. Yet inspectors haven't found the outbreak strain of salmonella Saintpaul on any farms, in suspect areas of south Florida and parts of Mexico, where they've managed to trace tomatoes thought to have been eaten by patients.

As the outbreak stretched into last month, more evidence emerged against fresh jalapenos—the FDA's hottest lead for now. The agency sent inspectors to a Mexican packing house that supplied peppers linked to a cluster of those illnesses.

ACROSS THE NATION

Parachutist lands on band at Fort Riley ceremony

FORT RILEY, Kan. (AP)—A parachutist went off course Thursday at the start of a military review and dropped feet-first into the 1st Infantry Division's band, injuring three players. Several thousand people watched as the man under the red, white and blue parachute landed on the 30-member band, about 50 yards off target. "I hear, 'Oh, expletive,' and immediately, I hear a crash," said the band's commander, Chief Warrant Officer Scott MacDonald. The three injured band members were treated and released from Irwin Army Community Hospital. The parachutist, Scott Hallock, refused treatment at the scene.

Texas approves major new wind power project

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Texas, headquarters of America's oil industry, is about to stake a fortune on wind power. In what experts say is the biggest investment in the clean and renewable energy in U.S. history, utility officials in the Lone Star State gave preliminary approval Thursday to a \$4.9 billion plan to build new transmission lines to carry wind-generated electricity from gusty West Texas to urban areas like Dallas. Texas is already the national leader in wind power, generating about 5,000 megawatts. But wind-energy advocates say the lack of transmission lines has kept a lot of that power from being put to use and has hindered the building of more turbines.

Bush surveys record-breaking California wildfires

REDDING, Calif. (AP)—President Bush offered federal help and encouragement Thursday to some of the 25,000 firefighters working under a blazing sun to contain wildfires that make up the single largest fire event ever recorded in California. "I always come to make sure the federal government is coordinating closely with the state government," Bush said. "I know Gov. Schwarzenegger well enough to say that if we weren't, he'd let me know." Since a huge lightning storm on June 21, about 2,010 separate fires have ignited across California, ravaging nearly 900,000 acres.

Man convicted in 2006 Vermont school shootings

BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP)—A man was convicted of murder Thursday for a shooting rampage that killed a teacher in an elementary school and his ex-girlfriend's mother. After 4 1/2 hours of deliberations, jurors rejected the insanity defense for Christopher Williams, 29. Prosecutors said Williams set out to kill his ex-girlfriend and her mother after being turned away from their home when he came to collect his belongings after a breakup. Williams was found guilty of two counts of first-degree murder, one count of attempted first-degree murder and one count of attempted second-degree murder. Another teacher at the school and a friend who had loaned him the gun were shot but survived.

Asia

Al-Qaida draws more foreign recruits to Afghanistan war

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Afghanistan has been drawing a fresh influx of jihadi fighters from Turkey, Central Asia, Chechnya and the Middle East, one more sign that al-Qaida is regrouping on what is fast becoming the most active front of the war on terror groups.

More foreigners are infiltrating Afghanistan because of a recruitment drive by al-Qaida as well as a burgeoning insurgency that has made movement easier across the border from Pakistan, U.S. officials, militants and experts say. For the

past two months, Afghanistan has overtaken Iraq in deaths of U.S. and allied troops, and nine American soldiers were killed at a remote base in Kunar province Sunday in the deadliest attack in years.

Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, warned during a visit to Kabul this month about an increase in foreign fighters crossing into Afghanistan from Pakistan, where a new government is trying to negotiate with militants.

Two U.S. officials, who spoke



In this Nov 25, 2004 file photo, captured Central Asians alleged to be Islamic militants, Abdul Qahar, 26, Mohammad Khalid, 16, and Hussain, 14, from left, are presented before the media as an officer of Pakistan army looks on, in Peshawar, Pakistan.

6 countries to meet on N. Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Top diplomats from the U.S. and North Korea will meet next week along with their counterparts from regional nuclear talks, a South Korean official said Friday, the highest level of contact between the countries amid recent progress on Pyongyang's disarmament.

The talks, including U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and North Korean Foreign Minister Pak Ui Chun, will take place on the sidelines of an Asian security

meeting in Singapore that all the countries' foreign ministers had already planned to attend, the official said.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the organizer of the nuclear talks, China, had not yet made a formal announcement about the meeting.

The talks would be the first time the countries' top diplomats have met since the six-nation arms negotiations began in 2003. Along with the U.S. and North Korea, the arms talks

China urges restrictions on performers

BEIJING (AP)—The government warned foreign performers and entertainers against harming China's sovereignty or ethnic unity, a sign of increasing nervousness over live performances weeks before the Olympic Games.

China is ratcheting up security ahead of the Aug. 8-24 games in an all-out attempt to shield the event from disruptions that could tarnish China's carefully cultivated image of order and control.

China should strengthen its rules about foreign performers and performers from Hong

Kong, Macau and Taiwan, a notice on the Ministry of Culture's Web site said, including checks on their background.

"The content of the performance should not violate the country's law, including situations that harm the sovereignty of the country," the notice said.

Chinese authorities were alarmed in March after Icelandic singer Bjork shouted "Tibet! Tibet!" at the end of her concert in Shanghai in March.

Authorities said Bjork's outburst "broke Chinese law and hurt Chinese people's feelings," and vowed to be stricter on for-

merchants.

The notice said performances should also not harm China's "national security, or incite racial hatred and ruin ethnic unity."

Performers should also not promote pornography and superstition, it said.

The rules were first introduced in 2005, but the notice acts as warning and reinforcement during a sensitive time weeks from the opening of the Olympic Games. Agencies that bring foreign performers to China will be banned for two years if they violate the rules, it said.

World

'Insatiable consumption' is scarring planet—pope

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI said Thursday that mankind's "insatiable consumption" has scarred the Earth and squandered its resources, telling followers that taking care of the planet is vital to humanity.

The 81-year-old pontiff, appearing rested and in good form, gave his first major speech for Roman Catholicism's World Youth Day before adoring crowds who had traveled from 168



Benedict XVI

countries to see him in Australia's largest city.

As the sun set in the mild chill of the Australian winter,

Benedict struck a theme that has earned him a reputation as the "green pope."

"Some of you come from island nations whose very existence is threatened by rising water levels, others from nations suffering the effects of devastating drought," the pope said, referring to warming.

He noted that during his

more than 20-hour flight from Rome to Sydney he had a bird's eye view of a vast swath of the world that inspired awe and introspection.

"Perhaps reluctantly we come to acknowledge that there are also scars which mark the surface of our Earth: erosion, deforestation, the squandering of the world's mineral and ocean resources order to fuel an insatiable consumption," he said.

The crowd, some 200,000 young pilgrims gathered on a disused wharf on Sydney's harbor, waved their national flags and applauded.

Israel buries 2 returned soldiers

NAHARIYA, Israel (AP)—Thousands of Israelis prayed and cried at funerals Thursday for two soldiers whose return from Lebanon in black coffins touched off a nationwide wave of anguish.

Across the border, a second day of celebrations swept Lebanon for the five militants freed by Israel in exchange for the soldiers' bodies. The five prayed at the grave of a slain Hezbollah military commander and vowed to keep fighting Israel.

The contrast in moods was tangible. In Israel, sorrowful pictures and sounds of the funerals of the two soldiers, Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev, dominated TV and radio broadcasts through the day, the tears of the widows and parents shown over and over.



Karnit Goldwasser, center, the wife of Israeli soldier Ehud Goldwasser, is comforted during her husband's funeral at a military cemetery in Nahariya, northern Israel, Thursday, July 17, 2008.

served for Memorial Day.

Soldiers carried Regev's casket, draped with the blue and white Israeli flag, into the military cemetery in the northern city of Haifa.

Nazi-hunter closing in on 'Dr. Death'

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—The world's top Nazi-hunter said Thursday he's made progress in finding 94-year-old "Doctor Death," a former concentration camp physician accused of torturing Jewish prisoners as they died and who may have been living for decades in Argentina or Chile.

Efraim Zuroff, head of the Israeli branch of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, told a

news conference that his mission to the southern reaches of the Americas led him to at least four people who claim to have seen Aribert Heim in the past 45 days.

"We're better off than before we came," Zuroff said. "That doesn't guarantee Heim's capture, but I'm hopeful."

Zuroff launched the investigation last week in the southern Chilean fishing town of Puerto

Mandela village spruces up for his 90th b'day

QUNU, South Africa (AP)—Gardeners mowed the lawn outside the tiny museum honoring local hero Nelson Mandela on Thursday, while a work crew laid new tarmac on the road outside his house and a school choir rehearsed a song they created especially for him.

The anti-apartheid icon planned to spend his 90th birthday Friday at home in the southeastern village of Qunu with his family, and the whole village is celebrating.

"We are very excited," school principal Mpondonise Ndzambo said, sitting in this office beneath a photograph of

Montt, where Heim's daughter lives, although she was reportedly overseas at the time.

Zuroff said during the past three years she has traveled several times to the Patagonian town of San Carlos de Bariloche in Argentina, which he visited this week. The Nazi hunter believes Heim is hiding out somewhere between the two towns, separated by the Andes mountain range.

Perched atop a hill, the Nkalanane Junior Secondary School overlooks Mandela's sprawling homestead and enjoys a special relationship with its famous neighbor.

Maharlika – PinoyNews

Deal with MILF will expand ARMM

By TERESA CEROJANO
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Government and Muslim rebel negotiators have agreed to expand an autonomous region and hand over some state-controlled resources in the southern Philippines, officials said Thursday.

Hermogenes Esperon, Presi-

Homeland for Moros to include 5 other provinces

dent Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's top adviser on the peace process, said secret talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front have been held in Malaysia, which has brokered the peace negotiations and led an international truce team in the troubled southern Philippines.

Esperon said the two sides resolved a sticking point in the critical issue of ancestral domain and that negotiators would meet again July 24 to set a date for the signing of a memorandum of agreement, with formal peace talks to resume afterward.

They agreed to expand the ter-

ritory of the autonomous region in Mindanao with the addition of 712 predominantly Muslim villages, subject to a plebiscite six months after the deal is signed, Esperon told a news conference.

The agreement also calls for Muslim control of forest and mineral resources up to 9.3

miles (15 kilometers) from the shoreline, with resources beyond that point but still within Philippine territory to be shared, with 75 percent going to the autonomous region, Esperon said.

Arroyo lauded the breakthrough, telling DZBB radio that it was reached because of a mutual desire for peace.

"When peace comes to Mindanao, speedy and just progress will also come," she added.

Esperon said there should be some unification between

the MILF and the older Moro National Liberation Front that signed a peace pact with the government in 1996 and which controls the current Muslim autonomous region encompassing five provinces and one city.

The rebel forces warned last Friday that a 5-year-old truce could collapse unless the two sides resumed formal talks. U.S. and Philippine officials hope a peace pact can transform the southern Philippines into a booming economic hub instead of combat zones that are a breeding ground for terrorism.

Reward for info leading to killer of endangered eagle

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine authorities offered a reward Friday for information leading to the arrest of the person who killed an endangered eagle four months after it was released back into the wild following treatment for a gunshot wound.

About 800 of the giant birds, also known as monkey-eating eagles, are believed to remain in the Philippines, where deforestation and poaching threaten their survival.

The Philippine Eagle Foundation, which runs programs to protect the national bird by breeding it in captivity and tracking its survival in the wild, said its workers found the dismembered remains of the young male named Kagsabua last Sunday in Mount Kitanglad Natural Park on southern Mindanao island. It was not

clear why it was killed.

The foundation treated the eagle after it was found shot in the forest in 2006 and released it in the park in March, said spokeswoman Irene Macahis.

She said the eagle had been tracked via radio transmitters attached to it, which on Sunday indicated the bird was no longer moving.

After trekking for hours, workers found the transmitters buried in a steep ravine. A few yards (meters) away, they saw the bird's nape feathers, a long rope, and the eagle's feet, leading them to suspect it had been killed, Macahis said.

"The crime against Kagsabua is a crime done to the Filipino people," the foundation's president, William Hotchkiss, said in a statement. "The Philippine eagle is a national pride."



ANTI-DEMOLITION PROTEST

Children from the poor district of Navotas shout slogans as they display placards to oppose the government's plan to demolish their shanties Thursday July 17, 2008, east of Manila, Philippines. The government is planning to demolish shanties of more than 10,000 people to pave the way for the widening of the road known as R-10.

Peso rallies after BSP's rate hike

MANILA, Philippines—The peso rose sharply against the US dollar on Friday, a day after the central bank hiked key interest rates by half a percentage point in its boldest move yet to fight inflation now running at a 14-year high.

The peso traded as high as 44.44 to the dollar in morning deals, a big jump from Thursday's closing level of 45.03.

"For now, the rate hike has provided some respite for the Philippine peso, which has been under depreciating pressure since March," DBS Bank currency strategists said in a note.

The central bank's move brought the overnight borrowing rate to 5.75 percent and the overnight lending rate to 7.75 percent. It was the second adjustment in two months and was double the initial hike of 25 basis points -- which was the first in nearly three years.

"The central bank has acted far more decisively than expected. Evidently, officials are growing more concerned over

the persistence of inflation," said Frederic Neumann, economist at HSBC.

"However, we suspect that exchange rate considerations may have forced the hand of officials to push rates up faster than initially expected."

Legal support sought for thousands of illegal OFWs

MANILA—With the massive deportation of overseas Filipino workers, and with the present crisis the country is experiencing, an overseas Filipino workers' group called on the Arroyo administration on Wednesday to provide legal and logistical support for thousands of illegally staying OFWs facing deportation from Malaysia, South Korea and Europe.

Migrante chair Connie Braga-Regalado, in a statement, urged the government to create a task force or a crisis management team dedicated to ensuring that Filipino citizens' rights would not be violated in the course of the crackdown.

She also urged the government to "act with dispatch" on the matter by intervening diplomatically in behalf of OFWs.

Neumann said concerns over inflation and the eroding balance of payment surplus had weighed heavily on the peso in recent months, prompting central bank interventions in the foreign exchange market in support of the local currency.

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LABOR FRONT

Permission to seek temporary work

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Q: Can an alien worker get permission from the Department of Labor to seek temporary work pending a hearing on his or her complaint?

A: Yes. According to the new Alien Labor Rules and Regulations, a Labor administrative hearing officer may authorize a foreign national worker who attends a mediation session at which no agreement is reached to seek employment in the CNMI on a temporary basis pending a hearing in this case.

Q: Once Labor has granted an alien worker permission to seek temporary work, how should he or she report to Labor his or her efforts to find a job?

A: The foreign national worker who has been given permission to seek temporary work should make a good

faith effort to find work and shall appear in person at Labor Enforcement at least once a month to report on such efforts to find work.

The Regulations state that failure to make a good faith effort to find work shall be ground for denying a request for transfer. The Regulations further state that failure to report or false or fraudulent reports shall be ground to dismiss the pending case

Q: What will happen if an alien worker who got permission to seek temporary work finds a suitable employer?

A: If the worker finds work, Labor shall issue a temporary work authorization for up to six months while the case is pending. The Regulations provide that a temporary work authorization may be renewed for an equal term and shall expire automatically 10 days after the date of a hearing of

ficer's final order in the case, or in the event of a timely appeal 10 days after the date of the Labor Secretary's order, or in the event of a timely appeal to a court 10 days after the date of the court's final order.

Disclaimer: Readers should conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional legal advice. Saipan Tribune will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from this section. Submit questions on labor issues to Saipan Tribune via e-mail at editor@saipantribune.com, or by calling 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747 and leaving a message at Ext. 133 or 135. You may also submit questions in person by writing it down and dropping it off at the Saipan Tribune's office on the second floor of the CIC Centre on Beach Road, Garapan.

Shorter prison terms sought for 2 OFWs

By VERONICA UY
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—The Arroyo administration will seek shorter jail terms for the two overseas Filipino workers whose lives were recently spared by the emir of Kuwait, Vice President Noli De Castro said Friday.

De Castro, who went to Kuwait to personally deliver President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's appeal for May Vecina, said the father of Vecina's six-year-old victim had given his tanazul (forgiveness), and the likelihood of the further downgrade of the penalty would depend on "more prayers."

"Dagdag pa natin ang ating mga dasal [Let's pray some more]," he said. "Let's be thankful that they are alive, after all,

they committed a crime."

At the same time, Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo said "civic-spirited and generous people" were helping raise the blood money.

Romulo explained that the

forgiveness and the blood money aspects of the case were private in nature, and preceded any action by the emir.

"It was really very kind of the emir to do this," he said.

On July 8, Kuwaiti Emir

Sheik Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah signed the Amiri decrees commuting the death penalties imposed on Vecina and Marilou Ranario.

On April, Vecina was sentenced to death for the killing

of her seven-year-old ward and for double frustrated murder of involving her employer's two other children on Jan. 6, 2007.

During her visit to Kuwait in December, Arroyo personally appealed to the emir of Kuwait for

the commutation of the death sentences of Ranario and Vecina.

Ranario, who was convicted for killing her female employer and sentenced to death, was spared following the emir's intervention.

Estrada: Sodomy charge vs Anwar 'politically motivated'

By TERESA CEROJANO
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Ousted Philippine President Joseph Estrada on Thursday criticized the sodomy charge against his friend, Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim, as politically motivated.

"I hope that the Malaysian government will exercise prudence and observe due process in Anwar's case," Estrada said in a statement.

Estrada, who hosted Anwar in Manila last month and praised him as a democracy icon, said Anwar's arrest Wednesday on allegations that he sodomized a 23-year-old male aide appeared to be politically motivated.



Estrada

He did not elaborate, but it was the second time in a decade that such an accusation has threatened Anwar's political career.

Malaysian police freed Anwar on bail

Thursday after arresting

him Wednesday for question-

ing and holding him overnight.

Anwar was fired as deputy prime minister in 1998, after being accused of sodomizing his family driver. Malaysia's Supreme Court later overturned his conviction, but by then Anwar had served six years in prison on a related charge of abuse of power. He was freed in 2004.

A former movie star, the 71-

year-old Estrada was toppled in 2001 on corruption charges, and was jailed for six years during his plunder trial. He was convicted last year but was pardoned by his successor, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Last month, Estrada hosted a dinner party in his home for Anwar, and called him "part of my family."

Pro-choice official says priests have threatened to deny him communion

By OLIVER TEVES
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine city councilor said Wednesday that Roman Catholic priests have threatened to deny him communion for writing an ordinance promoting birth control among young people.

Joseph Juico, a city councilman in Manila's Quezon City suburb, said he has avoided communion while attending Sunday Mass and has planned his wedding next month in another town to avoid any embarrassment.

He said the threat was made during a meeting with a group of priests who tried to persuade him not to push the measure last August. It was passed in February.

Juico clarified reports that priests threatened to deny him

a church wedding, saying that wasn't true.

"But if there's one thing they told me, it is that they will deny me communion," he said. "Coming from men in robes ... I was really caught off guard."

Father Aris Sison, who was at the meeting, denied the priests had threatened Juico.

"He was not told, 'If you continue this, we will ban you,'" he said.

Sison said during a "light moment" in their meeting, the priests discussed reports of American Catholic bishops denying communion for the same reasons.

"It came out in the discussion ... as a question which was not answered," he said.

Asked if he would give communion to Juico, Sison did not give a categorical reply.

"There is no discussion about that," he said.

Mass deportations from Sabah to begin Aug.

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia plans to deport 150,000 mostly Filipino and Indonesian illegal migrants from Borneo island in a massive operation to begin in August, the deputy prime minister said Thursday.

Najib Razak said foreigners in Sabah, a Malaysian state on the northern tip of Borneo, which has been a magnet for illegal migrants for decades, would be sent home if found without legal visas.

"Large-scale operations will begin in August," Najib told reporters, adding that the cabinet has approved a 50-million-ringgit (\$15.6-million) budget to fund the operation.

"We target at least 100,000 to 150,000 people to be deported," he said, adding it will be an ongoing program until the state is clear of illegal migrants.

Najib said the deportations will be carried out by police, immigration authori-

ties and a controversial volunteer squad, RELA, which has been blamed for human rights abuses in the past.

Sabah, which lies between the Philippines to the north and Indonesia's Kalimantan to the south, is a popular destination for migrant workers from those countries who labor on construction sites and oil palm plantations.

The illegal settlers have been blamed for drug and crime problems, and local politicians say they are also tipping the ethnic balance against mostly Christian indigenous tribes who used to dominate the population.

Authorities say there are 130,000 illegal migrants in Sabah, but local politicians put the figure as high as 500,000.

Najib said the government was "determined" to put an end to the illegal migrant problem in the state.

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Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Bong for VP? Lani not sure

By MARINEL CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Senator Ramon “Bong” Revilla Jr. would like to run for vice president in the next elections—if the members of his political party would let him.

“I feel that I will be more effective as an executive [official] than as a lawmaker. I’m not a lawyer. I’m an action man,” Revilla told Inquirer Entertainment in a gathering in Quezon City on Tuesday night. “But it’s too early to tell. A lot of things can happen between now and 2010.”

Revilla said some party-mates of his in Lakas-CMD have been pushing for him to run for VP, but he said his decision would depend on what “the people” want. “If Filipinos want me to run for senator again, that will be fine, too. I could also choose not to run for any office. I’m young; I can wait for the right time.”

First crack

He ran for vice governor of Cavite in 1995, with former NBI director Epimaco Velasco as running mate. In February 1998, Velasco resigned as governor and the actor-politician took over. He won for the same position in the polls held shortly after.

In 2002, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo appointed

him as chair of the Videogram Regulatory Board (now Optical Media Board). In 2003, for his effort to curb media piracy in the country, he was cited by the Motion Picture Association.

Revilla ran for senator under the K-4 Coalition in 2004, and won

with the second highest number of votes. “I never imagined I’d go this far in politics,” he said.

Lani worried

Revilla’s wife, actress Lani Mercado, expressed apprehensions about her husband’s chances at



Sen. Ramon “Bong” Revilla Jr.

winning in the VP race. “I told him it’s easy for him to win a seat in the Senate again because voters get to pick 12 names. But for VP, only one is chosen,” she explained. “We’re studying all the options.”

Mercado said she has long prepared for the task of cam-

paigning for her husband. “We did it in 2004. Our opponents could throw mud at us just to get ahead, but we’re ready for anything,” she said.

Prepared

Asked what projects she would likely focus on as vice presi-

dent’s wife, Lani said she hoped to carry on with her “Clean and Green” program, something she started when Bong was Cavite governor. “I also hope to spearhead projects on education, nutrition and family planning. These are also my concerns as a wife and mother,” she said.

In the end, Lani said, everything would still depend on her husband. “I pray that whatever path he decides to take would be for the good of many.”

bina. “‘I Love You Like Crazy Cakes’ is particularly touching,” Claudine said. “Raymart cried when he read it to Sabina.”

Home, work

These days, the actress’ week is equally divided between home and her new ABS-CBN soap opera, “Iisa Pa Lamang.”

Before starting work on “Iisa,” the entire cast had a two-day acting workshop under filmmaker Laurice Guillen who also co-stars in the series.

“I gave them different exercises that helped them relax and bond as a group,” Laurice said.

At the end of the workshop, Claudine reported: “I had the lowest grade, along with (co-stars) Diether (Ocampo) and Gabby (Concepcion). Our teen co-stars Melissa (Ricks) and Matt (Evans) got high scores.”

Claudine’s competitive streak was sparked. “I didn’t know we were being graded. I wanted to repeat the sessions so I could improve my performance. I’m like that e.”

Post-partum blues

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines

Claudine Barretto admits she suffered from post-partum depression after giving birth to son Rodrigo Santino on July 19, 2007.

“I kept crying,” she told Inquirer Entertainment. “I didn’t want to see anyone. All I did, all day, was breast-feed. I thought I was going crazy.”



Barretto

She sought professional help, and had to take medication. Now she’s talking openly about it for a good reason: “People should understand that there are ways to deal with postpartum depression. It’s no joke.”

Claudine said recent news accounts of mothers throwing their newborn babies out of cabs and buildings bothered her deeply. “My husband Raymart

Orphanage

That she has a soft spot for children is common knowledge. In fact, Claudine said, her biggest dream is to build an orphanage. For the same reason, she and Raymart have taken up “adoption” as a pet cause.

“We’re also doing it for Sabina (their adopted daughter who just turned 4). People should not treat adopted kids differently.”

Smiling, she recalled, “When I was a kid, my sisters Gretchen and Marjorie used to tease me, saying I was adopted. Raymart and I have explained to Sabina that she didn’t come from my tummy [but] she was meant for us.”

The Santiagos read storybooks that tackle adoption to Sa-

credit rating agencies such as Standard & Poor’s.

Stocks or entities let you “own” a portion of a corporation and give you a claim over its earnings and assets. You can invest in stocks through a broker licensed by the local stock exchange. Since stocks are actively traded daily in the stock market, prices fluctuate and it’s possible to earn today and lose tomorrow. The risk is very high, but the potential to earn is also very high when the stock market is up. In the long term, stocks have proven to be a good investment for many people.

Because of the volatility of stocks, you may want to defer getting into it until you have become more experienced in investing. Also, consider investing in stocks if you can hold on to your investment for the long term.

Real estate is worth investing into for the long term as well. But bear in mind that there are many costs involved, from annual real estate taxes to maintenance costs. Real estate carries with it a medium risk. You may earn or lose depending on the performance of the real estate market.

A business venture is also a

form of investment. However, the risk is high, as not all businesses earn over time. There are many factors to the success of a business. One must not only have enough capital; you must also devote time to growing it and ensuring that it will meet market demands.

Since you are working full time, a business venture is not feasible at this time, unless you want to take a less involved role in running it. Real estate may take a big amount of capital. And since stocks may be quite sophisticated for the first time investor, we thus recommend that you invest in debt instruments.

You can directly invest in a specific debt instrument. Visit your bank to determine what debt instruments they have available. Oftentimes though, the capital required may be high.

An easier way is to invest via a pooled fund, such as a mutual fund or a unit investment trust fund. These funds gather the small investments of many investors and the fund manager puts the total fund in a number of debt instruments. (The funds may also invest in stocks only, or a combination of stocks and debt instruments. You will be advised of the nature of the

fund before you invest.) The minimum amount of investment required from an investor may be as low as P5,000 or P10,000 only.

Inquire about mutual funds from mutual fund companies, or unit investment trust funds from banks. With funds, you can easily invest and after a short holding period, you can encash your investment should you need to, subject however to the market price at the time of liquidation.

Remember that investments should be viewed as a long-term strategy to build up wealth. The more you leave it alone, the more it will grow and work for you.

INQUIRER.net and Citibank invite readers to ask questions regarding financial matters. Send your questions to personal_finance@inquirer.net. Readers are solely responsible for their own investment decisions and should thus conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional advice. INQUIRER.net will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader’s reliance on information obtained from our web site.

PERSONAL FINANCE

Investment 101 for the first-time investor

Editor’s Note: This is a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Question: With the way the economy is going, I’d like to invest my savings better so it will earn more for me in the long run. But aside from having time deposits, I don’t have any experience in investing. What can you suggest I get into that is safe but will grow my money? I am working as manager for a retail company. — Mario S.

Answer: Investing is one of the best things you can do in life. With it, you can reach your financial goals and safeguard your family’s future. You can grow your money and build wealth as you make your money work for you.

It’s good that you are planning to invest your savings. Here are some differences between savings and investments. Savings are for short-term needs and for liquidity purposes. Investments are for the long-term. Savings are low risk and are insured by the Philippine Deposit

Insurance System (PDIC) up to the amount of P250,000. Investments, on the other hand, are riskier and are not covered by any insurance. Savings give low returns and may not be a good strategic move since inflation can eat into your savings. Investments, meanwhile, may give relatively higher potential returns, and may be able to beat inflation.

Putting your money in a savings account in the bank will keep your money safe, but your money pot will grow very slowly. If the interest rate offered is lower than the rate of inflation, it may even lose its purchasing value.

Thus, if you want to maximize the earning potential of your money, you have to have investments. Some people who have diligently put aside money for investments in their younger years get to live on interest income during retirement. You can be one of those persons if you start investing while you’re young and make wise investment decisions.

Available investments

There are many types of investments you can get into. Aside from cash deposits (such as

Maharlika – Opinyon

Penalties

Archbishop Jesus Dosado of Ozamiz has an interesting proposition: Priests should refuse to give Communion to “anti-life politicians.” He made this known through a pastoral letter, recommending it against the congressmen who had endorsed Rep. Edcel Lagman’s reproductive health and population management bill. This was not, the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) website quoted Dosado as saying, a sanction against the pro-abortion lawmakers, or a judgment on their subjective guilt. It was merely a reaction to a person’s public unworthiness to receive Holy Communion because of “an objective situation of sin.”

Trust a cleric to put an argument in ways any Jesuit would love. It’s not a penalty or sanction for a priest to ignore someone who is kneeling down in front of him tongue sticking out to receive the holy wafer while the entire congregation watches?

But I leave them to their mental contortions. My beef with it is this: I may not like Lagman, especially after he acted epically, along with Joe de V, Louie V and the two Prosperos, Nograles and Pichay, to thwart the impeachment bids against Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, but he has a point when he says the threat is “a grave penalty for a phantom act.” His bill does not abet abortion, permissive or not, it frowns on it. Indeed, it bans it as illegal. What it does is require people to undergo reproductive health and sexuality education. Given our particularly dire times and the even direr times we face in the immediate future, it is not only commendable, it is necessary. There’s nothing pro-life in the rapidly growing tribe of kids roaming the streets sniffing rugby and badgering people for alms.

I leave the abortionists to their devices, but I draw the line at the Church threatening hellfire or its equivalent in this life upon those who argue for contraceptives. The Church’s ferocious activism on that score, based on the completely literal interpretation of God’s command to go and multiply and the proposition that God invented sex so that his creations might suffer it to procreate, has got to be one of the most anti-life, if not the battiest, idea to crawl out of the

EDITORIAL

School's out

MANILA, Philippines—According to the Department of Education, or DepEd, students who make it to the third grade are more likely to stay in school. Unfortunately, the DepEd reports, the net enrollment rate in the elementary grades has dropped from 90.29 percent five academic years ago to 83.22 percent in the last school year.

In absolute terms, the number of students enrolled in all public and private grade schools has risen only minimally, from 12.99 million in 2002-2003 to 13.14 million in 2006-2007—the result, in all likelihood, of sheer momentum generated by the country’s high population growth rate.

Poverty explains the long-term decline, top government officials say. Indeed, between June 2004 and June 2005, the number of grade school students even fell by about 90,000, from 13.096 million to 13.006 million. That must mean that, in academic year 2005-2006, poverty worsened at a faster rate than the population grew.

It may be more accurate to say, however, that the spike in inflation is a factor this school year; before the surge in fuel and food prices in the last several months, inflation was largely a docile, domesticated beast. It does not explain, though, the alarming drop the last five years in elementary-level net enrollment. If poverty is the main cause of the decline, then it means that the economy is in worse shape than our robust gross national product growth rates tell us. Or that, despite healthy economic indicators, the poor are really getting poorer.

The country, as measured by the government’s education budget, is not investing enough in education.

Education’s share in the government budget technically remains the biggest single slice of the trillion-peso pie, and thus keeps to the Constitution’s unique mandate. But accounting sleight of hand actually allows the government to devote more funds to the servicing of the country’s debt. If the government were to align other allocations (such as social welfare funds or a certain portion of the congressional pork barrel) to specified education-related initiatives (such as more feeding programs or increased provision of school supplies), perhaps more students will be encouraged to stay in school.

The best solution is for government to allot more money for education.

Philippine Daily Inquirer

Rock. Well, that and its former insistence, to Galileo’s consternation and incarceration, that the sun revolved around the earth.

I remember in this respect the complaints of Gawad Kalinga’s detractors that the group was soliciting contributions from pharmaceuticals that were manufacturing contraceptives to house the poor. So what? I did say in a column that it’s not as if GK was soliciting contributions from cigarette or liquor companies, or, heaven forbid, gambling joints and firearms factories. Which in fact the Church itself is doing, many bishops getting their share from Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. that has caused them to be stricken blind about this regime’s corruption. Surely those detractors do not lack for real abortionists to revile, not least those who caused justice in the form of the impeachment bids against Arroyo to be stillborn, or those who caused the will of the people in the form of their votes to be excised and the fetus thrown away.

Can there be anything more anti-life than the wholesale murder of journalists and political activists? Even as I speak, the UNESCO has just protested vigorously the killing of yet another Filipino newsman, Robert Sison, a radio commentator and newspaper columnist in Sariaya, Quezon, calling it an “intolerable violation of a basic human right.” Surely the patent crime of snuffing of the life of a full-grown person (and one who happens to be doing a public service) more deserves the refusal of Communion than the arguable one of wrapping the male organ in plastic while its possessor ardently takes pains to get pleasure without having to procreate?

Just as well, can there be anything more anti-life than wholesale theft and pillage, which takes away the means of life of the citizens? Or since that is putting it too nicely, which plucks away the clump of rice that’s about to disappear into the mouth of a hungry child? Surely the World Bank’s rating of the Philippines as the most corrupt country in East Asia qualifies as an “objective situation of

Guides for good living

MANILA, Philippines—Many interested readers wanted to know where they could get hold of a copy of “Mga tala ng aking buhay” by Gregorio de Jesus. A translation of the original Tagalog of this short autobiography can be found on several Internet sites. However, the prewar translation, while workable, is incomplete, and the Internet versions I have found do not have Oryang’s decalogue, which she wrote for the Filipino youth in 1928. If you have access to a university library, the best source is the appendix to “Julio Nakpil and the Philippine Revolution” by Encarnacion Alzona (Manila, 1964) that has both Tagalog and English versions. There is another autobiographical account by Oryang, written shortly after the death of her husband Andres, that I will use in this column soon.

Some people have made general rules for living in 10 parts just like the biblical Ten Commandments, hence a decalogue. Oryang miscounted her list and left us with only nine instead of 10 nuggets of wisdom, hence:

1. Respect and love your parents because they are next to God on Earth.
2. Remember always the sacred teachings of our heroes who sacrificed their lives for love of country.
3. [sic] Acquire some knowledge in the line or field of work for which you are best fitted so that you can be useful to your country.
4. Remember that goodness is wealth.
5. Respect your teachers who help you to see and understand, for you owe them your education as you owe your parents your life.
6. Protect the weak from danger.
7. Fear history, for it respects no secrets.
8. Greatness begins where baseness ends.
9. Promote union and the country’s progress in order not to retard its independence.

Better known is the “Decalogue” by Apolinario Mabini, a.k.a. “Sublime Paralytic.” In some books he is called “Brains of the Revolution.” Oryang did not agree with the latter, but that is a subject for a future column. Mabini’s guide for good living in Old Testament prose reads:

First. Thou shalt love God and thy honor above all things: God as the fountain of all truth, of all justice and of all activity; and thy honor, the only power that will oblige thee to be faithful, just and industrious.

Second. Thou shalt worship God in the form which thy conscience may deem most righteous and worthy: for in thy conscience, which condemns thy evil deeds and praises thy good ones, speaks thy God.

Third. Thou shalt cultivate the special gifts which God has granted thee, working and studying according to thy ability, never leaving the path of righteousness and justice, in order to attain thy own perfection, by means whereof thou shalt contribute to the progress of humanity; thus; thou shalt fulfill the mission to which God has appointed thee in this life and by so doing, thou shalt be honored, and being honored, thou shalt glorify thy God.

THERE'S THE RUB

By CONRADO DE QUIROS
Philippine Daily Inquirer



sin”? Surely the stunting, if not abortion, of an entire people, physically, mentally, politically, morally, economically, spiritually, more deserves the denial of the sacraments than a pilgrimage to the stalls in front of Quiapo Church to buy herbs and potions marked “pamparegla” [menstruation inducer]?

The Church may like to turn its ire on those who like other people to be as stunted as they are. I won’t particularly mind, and indeed will applaud, a priest refusing to give Communion to now-retired military general Jovito Palparan, his chief, Hermogenes Esperon, and his commander in chief, Arroyo, for having cost the lives of some of this country’s best and brightest, apart from youngest and most idealistic. I won’t particularly mind, and indeed will applaud, a priest denying former election commission chairman Benjamin Abalos Penance (he never offered any) and the First Gentleman the Anointment of the Sick, and revoking from the Cabinet secretaries Baptism on the ground that like Michael Corleone they were lying when they said “yes” to the question, “Do you renounce Satan and all his works?” And I won’t mind, indeed will applaud, a bishop banishing former economic planning secretary Romulo Neri to the specific circle of hell Dante reserved for wimps.

They can always tell them it’s not really a penalty or sanction.

LOOKING BACK

By AMBETH OCAMPO
Philippine Daily Inquirer



Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.

Fourth. Thou shalt love thy country after God and thy honor and more than thyself: for she is the only Paradise which God has given thee in this life, the only patrimony of thy race, the only inheritance of thy ancestors and the only hope of thy posterity; because of her, thou hast life, love and interests, happiness, honor and God.

Fifth. Thou shalt strive for the happiness of thy country before thy own, making of her the kingdom of reason, of justice and of labor: for if she be happy, thou, together with thy family, shalt likewise be happy.

Sixth. Thou shalt strive for the independence of thy country: for only thou canst have any real interest in her advancement and exaltation, because her independence constitutes thy own liberty; her advancement, thy perfection; and her exaltation, thy own glory and immortality.

Seventh. Thou shalt not recognize in thy country the authority of any person who has not been elected by thee and thy countrymen; for authority emanates from God, and as God speaks in the conscience of every man, the person designated and proclaimed by the conscience of a whole people is the only one who can use true authority.

Eighth. Thou shalt strive for a Republic and never for a monarchy in thy country: for the latter exalts one or several families and founds a dynasty; the former makes a people noble and worthy through reason, great through liberty, and prosperous and brilliant through labor.

Ninth. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself: for God has imposed upon him, as well as upon thee, the obligation to help thee and not to do unto thee what he would not have thee do unto him; but if thy neighbor, failing in this sacred duty, attempts against thy life, thy liberty and thy interests, then thou shalt destroy and annihilate him for the supreme law of self-preservation prevails.

Tenth. Thou shalt consider thy countryman more than thy neighbor; thou shalt see him as thy friend, thy brother or at least thy comrade, with whom thou art bound by one fate, by the same joys and sorrows and by common aspirations and interests.

Therefore, as long as national frontiers subsist, raised and maintained by the selfishness of race and of family, with thy countryman alone shalt thou unite in perfect solidarity of purpose and interest, in order to have force, not only to resist the common enemy but also to attain all the aims of human life.

Samu't Sari



PAGALINGAN CHALLENGE

Contestants compete for a challenge which goal is to be the first to finish drinking the milk inside the feeding bottle during the Bayani Pagalingan Challenge 2008 organized by the Bayani Association at the Garapan Central Park Sunday. The event aims to rekindle Filipino games and to unite all POLO/OWWA skills upgrading and re-integration training graduates.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



FINAL FLIGHT

Continental Micronesia flight 895 passengers wait at the departure area of Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport Wednesday afternoon for the last day of Continental's direct flights from Saipan to Manila.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Above, contest winner Virgie Saplan, left, competes with Marichu Yamaguchi in "Pulling the Garter" game during the Bayani Pagalingan Challenge 2008 organized by the Bayani Association at the Garapan Central Park Sunday. The event aims to rekindle Filipino games and to unite all POLO/OWWA skills upgrading and re-integration training graduates.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Right, contestants compete for a longest line challenge during the Bayani Pagalingan Challenge 2008 organized by the Bayani Association at the Garapan Central Park Sunday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Left, the friendly Hyatt Regency Saipan staff gather for a photo during the grand opening ceremony of PTI's new Wireless Express Center at the TSL Plaza in Garapan Wednesday afternoon.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



NMC DONATION

Far left, Dr. Johnny Fong, chairman of the University of Loyola's board of directors and Lee Francia, University of Loyola's chief financial officer present the 100 new classroom chairs to Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez during the turn over ceremony at the NMC campus Board of Regents office Tuesday morning.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Youngstyle



Mars Lander explores Earth's nearest neighbor

By VALERIE STRAUSS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — The news out of Mars lately has been so exciting that some scientists started talking about growing vegetables up there. Turns out

that's not going to happen, but discoveries on the Red Planet are telling us much more than we have ever known about Earth's closest neighbor in the Milky Way galaxy.

Ever since NASA's Phoenix Mars lander set down in the

northern polar region of the planet in late May, scientists have been learning a lot.

The lander's eight-foot robotic arm scoops up soil, which is then chemically analyzed with techniques being used for the first time.

Found in the northern polar region was water ice, said Derrick Pitts, chief astronomer at the Fels Planetarium at Philadelphia's Franklin Institute Science Museum.

That proves, he said, that at one time a great deal of water was on the surface of Mars. Liquid water is a necessary component for life as we know it.

Soil analysis also revealed that Martian dirt has some chemi-

Mars Day on Earth

(C) 2008, The Washington Post

Mars Day! is a celebration of the Red Planet at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum on the Mall in Washington. Activities are from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

cal elements and compounds found in Earth soil that might be beneficial in the growth of such vegetables as radishes and asparagus.

"But unfortunately," Pitts said, "that has been reinterpreted as meaning that Mars soil is able to grow vegetables. It is not able to grow vegetables."

Friday and are free.

Things to do:

- See a real Martian meteorite.
- Learn about radar mapping for the European Mars Express mission.
- See high-resolution images

That's because no organic material (matter that comes from a recently living thing) has been found on Mars, and without that organic matter, nothing can grow.

Besides, Mars is always being bombarded with deadly ultraviolet radiation that would destroy vegetables, even if they could grow.

of Mars taken by the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter.

- Test hand-eye skills as you control a robotic rover or collect samples with a robotic arm.
- Learn about the gigantic volcanoes on Mars.
- See evidence from scientists that water once flowed on Mars.

Pitts said the lander sends back clear images daily, which are posted at www.nasa.gov. Click on "Missions" at the top of the page and then "Phoenix on Mars."

"For the first time in history, any kid can go online and see the same thing the scientists are seeing in real time. Wow."

Stamp marks a century of root, root, rooting

The Postal Service on Wednesday celebrated the 100th anniversary of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," one of the most popular baseball songs of all time, by issuing a 42-cent first-class stamp that looks like an old baseball card.

And at the White House, President Bush attended a special All-Star Tee-Ball game with players from all 50 states to mark the occasion.

The song was born in the summer of 1908 when an actor, singer and songwriter named Jack Norworth was riding on a New York City train and saw a sign about an upcoming baseball game.

He felt inspired and started writing the famous lines:

"Take me out to the ball-game / Take me out with the crowd / Buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jack / I don't care if I never get back...."

Today the song is blasted at ballparks across the country, especially during the seventh-inning stretch. (*The Washington Post*)



This undated handout image provided by the U.S. Postal Service shows the 42-cent "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" postage stamp. On Wednesday, July 16, 2008, President Bush joined the postmaster general in unveiling the stamp celebrating the song's 100th anniversary. The First-Day-of-Issue ceremony took place on the White House South Lawn where 51 young players representing all 50 states and Washington, played in the White House All-Star Tee Ball game.

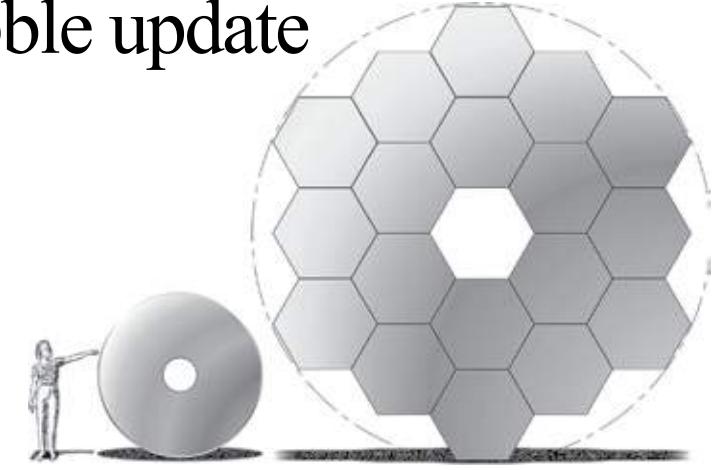
More space news: Hubble update

deal to astronomers who recently feared that the government would abandon Hubble.

It is, however, the last time Hubble will be fixed. In 2013, the much larger James Webb Space Telescope is scheduled to be launched. It will be 1 million miles from Earth, giving it much more ability to explore the universe.

Hubble has provided astronomers with invaluable information about space, including how the universe evolved and the existence of hundreds—and probably many more—of planets orbiting stars.

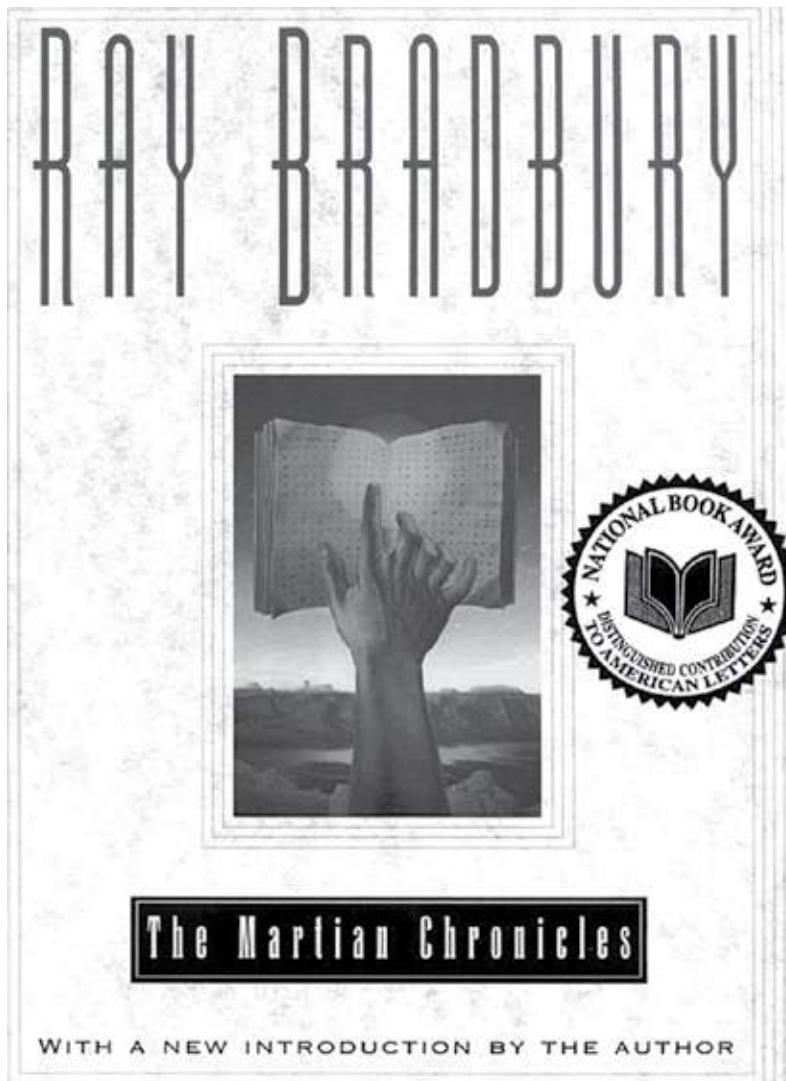
The telescope sends back bits of data by capturing light images that are turned into electronic impulses. Experts put the bits together to make pictures of galaxies and other objects in space. They add colors they are sure would be



A space shuttle mission is scheduled to fly in October to update the Hubble Space Telescope, giving it as many as six more years to operate. But it is the last time Hubble will be fixed. In 2013, the much larger James Webb Space Telescope is scheduled to be launched. Photo shows difference in size of the Hubble, left, and JWST mirrors.

visible if we could see them with our own eyes. (To see Hubble images, go to hubble.nasa.gov.)

The timeless guy of scifi



By MARYLOU TOUSIGNANT
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

"The Martian Chronicles,"

by Ray Bradbury
For age 12 and older

A series of popular short stories stitched into a book, "The Martian Chronicles" has been entertaining science-fiction lovers since 1950.

The stories, which are loosely related, revolve around the colonization of Mars between 1999 and 2026. Those dates must have seemed far off to the author, Ray Bradbury, but had to be advanced to 2030 to 2057 in the most recent edition. Despite that, the book has aged well, mostly because we earthlings continue to be fascinated with the Red Planet and the tantalizing thought of extraterrestrial life.

Don't look for any cute and playful ETs in these pages, however. Martian sightings are few and far between, though their presence is ALWAYS felt, even after a plague brought from Earth nearly wipes them out.

The earliest colonists are, for the most part, hard to like and thus deserving of their fate. That tens of thousands of settlers follow them on rockets to Mars (recreating their home towns and small cities in the vast Martian nothingness) is an act that seems destined to end unhappily.

THE WASHINGTON POST
The KidsPost Summer Book Club selection "The Martian Chronicles," by Ray Bradbury, originally revolved around the colonization of Mars between 1999 and 2026. Despite that, the book has aged well, mostly because we earthlings continue to be fascinated with the Red Planet and the tantalizing thought of extraterrestrial life.

Reading with the stars: R.L. Stine

R.L. Stine is one of the creepiest writers around, and nothing could make him happier. His spine-tingling children's books have sold more than 300 million copies. (How many are on YOUR bookshelf?)

Bob — that's what his family calls Robert Lawrence Stine — began typing his stories and jokes when he was 9. And he has never stopped.

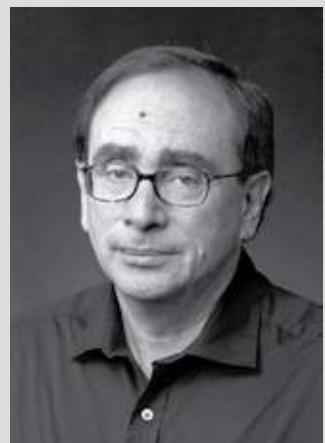
In 1986, he started writing teen horror novels. His hugely popular "Goosebumps" books started coming along six years later. This year, as if we weren't creeped out enough, Stine introduced the "Goosebumps HorrorLand" series. The fourth "HorrorLand" book, "The Scream of the Haunted Mask," will be out in a few weeks.

Stine talks about an author who gave HIM nightmares as a kid:

"When I was 10 or 11, I discovered the sci-fi short stories of Ray Bradbury. They turned me into an avid reader. The stories were so surprising and suspenseful and so beautifully written, with wonderful twists and shock endings."

"One of the first Bradbury books I read was 'The Martian Chronicles.' It was a book of

stories about what happens when humans land on Mars and come in contact with Martians. The stories were sad and strange and mysterious. For me, they carried me away from my little house in Ohio to



THE WASHINGTON POST

R.L. Stine's spine-tingling children's books have sold more than 300 million copies. His KidsPost Summer Book Club suggestion was by Ray Bradbury, whose "stories were so surprising and suspenseful and so beautifully written, with wonderful twists and shock endings."

another world.

"It was the first time I realized the power of reading. I've been a Ray Bradbury fan ever since." *(The Washington Post)*

SCANNING THE SHELVES

"Amelia Bedelia" (for ages 6 to 8) was the creation of a New York City schoolteacher named Peggy Parish. Beginning in 1963, she wrote a dozen books about the wacky housekeeper who does EXACTLY as she's told — don't ask her to run home during a baseball game! — much to the delight of young readers.

After Parish's death in 1988, her nephew Herman, who was in fourth grade when Amelia first appeared, took up his pen (more likely it was a computer) to keep the series going

and not disappoint Amelia's many fans. His first title, "Good Driving, Amelia Bedelia," appeared in 1995. Parish wrote that the book "took me a year to think about and one night to write."

Herman Parish has written 13 more "Amelia Bedelia" books (that's an average of one per year). His newest, "Amelia Bedelia Talks Turkey," will be out next month.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

A story for the ages

By MARYLOU TOUSIGNANT
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

"Anne of Green Gables"

By Lucy Maud Montgomery
Ages 9 and up

Matthew Cuthbert and his sister, Marilla, get much more than they bargained for when a redheaded orphan girl arrives at their farm on Canada's Prince Edward Island.

They had wanted a boy who could help with chores at Green Gables, their home. Instead, a mix-up brings them Anne Shirley, a wisp of a girl who chatters nonstop. Despite Marilla's early misgivings, it's not long before both Cuthberts are won over by the charming, intelligent and sometimes mischievous 11-year-old.

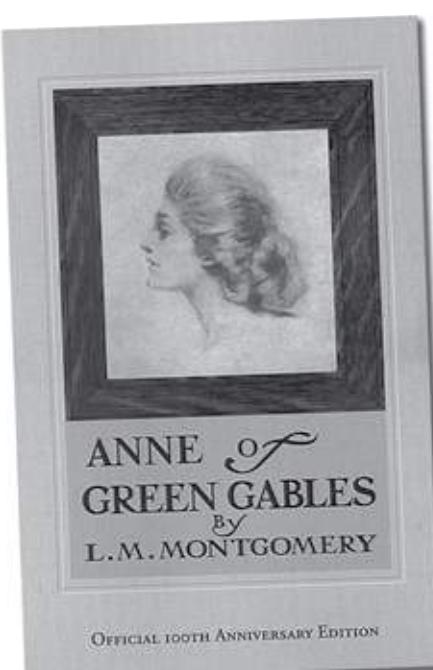
Readers of all ages have delighted in Anne's story, which celebrates its 100th anniversary this year.

The book was inspired by an

idea that Lucy Maud Montgomery had as a child and jotted down on a scrap of paper. (Let that be a lesson: Don't throw away your story ideas. They could become bestsellers one day!) The Cuthberts' farm was based on a farm owned by relatives of Montgomery's. She grew up nearby, raised by her grandparents after her mother died before Lucy was 2 years old.

"Anne of Green Gables" has sold an estimated 50 million copies and has been printed in several languages. The book spawned seven sequels, taking Anne from a teenager into her mid-50s.

The books have been made into movies, TV shows and



THE WASHINGTON POST
The KidsPost Summer Book Club selection "Anne of Green Gables," set on a farm on Canada's Prince Edward Island, is a story for the ages.

stage musicals. And each year more than 250,000 tourists visit the Green Gables Heritage Site in Prince Edward Island National Park.

Reading with the stars

Abigail Breslin has been acting since she was 3. Now 12, she can be seen in the G-rated movie "Kit Kittredge: An American Girl." It's the second starring role this year for Abbie (her nickname); the first was the PG-rated "Nim's Island."

Abbie received an Academy Award nomination for her 2006 performance in "Little Miss Sunshine" (rated R).

Given that Abbie is the same age as many KidsPost readers, she didn't have to think back very far to remember the first books that caught her attention when she was 9 or 10. She picked two very different literary troublemakers. Here is what she said:

"My favorite books at this age were 'Anne of Green Gables' and 'Amelia Bedelia.' I loved 'Amelia Bedelia' because she was so funny and always got everything confused. I also liked that she always carried her purse with her. I loved 'Anne of Green Gables' because she was always getting herself in and out of trouble."

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Abigail Breslin has been acting since she was 3.

SCANNING THE SHELVES

Ray Bradbury's books are for early teens and other mature readers. If futuristic themes appeal to you but you're still a little young to tackle Bradbury, try the Shadow Children series by Margaret Peterson Haddix (for ages 9 to 12). The first book is "Among the Hidden."

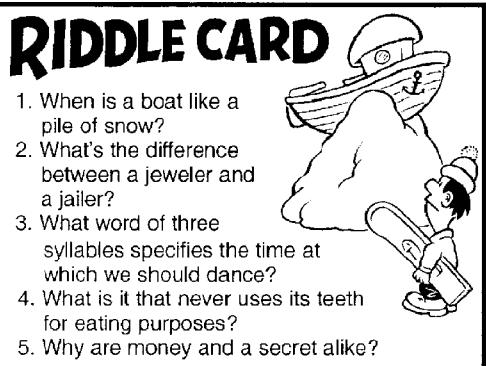
In a crowded world where parents are limited to two offspring, "shadow children" are those born



after the second child in each family. If the Population Police find them, they will be jailed or killed.

As the seven-volume series plays out, 12-year-old Luke Garner and other shadow children plot to topple the government and find freedom for themselves.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

**RIDDLE CARD**

- When is a boat like a pile of snow?
- What's the difference between a jeweler and a jailer?
- What word of three syllables specifies the time at which we should dance?
- What is it that never uses its teeth for eating purposes?
- Why are money and a secret alike?

Answers: 1. When it's scuttled. 2. A diamond. 3. A secret. 4. A door. 5. Because both of watches tell time.

A "DIRTY" PROBLEM! How many cubic feet of dirt can you remove from a hole that is 6 feet square and 6 feet deep?

Answer: None. The dirt has already been taken out.

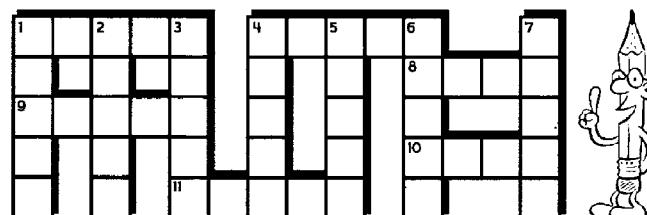
DON'T FLIP YOUR LID ON THIS ONE! In this puzzle, all of the words get progressively longer, and they all end in LID. The following hints should help:

- A jar cover (in place).
- How he crossed the ice.
- A just conclusion.
- Lacking vivid coloring.
- Dirty surroundings.
- Reverted to wrongdoing.

Answers: 1. Lid, 2. Slid, 3. Valid, 4. Pallid, 5. Squallid, 6. Backslid.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

AN "AT HOME" PUZZLE!

Below are words pertaining to items and objects found in and around the house. These words will complete the puzzle grid provided. Use the trial-and-error method, and try to finish before lunchtime!

4-Letter Words	5-Letter Words	5-Letter Words
HOSE	CHINA	SHIRT
RAKE	NAILS	SINKS
	NEWEL	SLIDE
	RADIO	SOAPS
	ROSES	SOCKS
		STOVE

Answers: (Across) 1. Shirts, 2. Socks, 3. Nails, 4. Soaps, 5. Radio, 6. Stove, 7. Newel, 8. Sink, 9. China, 10. Rake, 11. Slides. (Down) 1. Hose, 2. Radio, 3. Sinks, 4. Roses, 5. Slides, 6. Shirts, 7. Newels, 8. Socks, 9. China, 10. Rakes, 11. Slides.



By SAMANTHA WEAVER

■ If your take-home pay leaves something to be desired, you probably won't be surprised to learn that the English word "salary" is derived from the Latin word for the allowance provided to Roman soldiers to buy salt.

■ It was Academy Award-winning comedian and actor George Burns who made the following sage observation: "You know you're getting old when you stoop to tie your shoes and wonder what else you can do while you're down there."

■ Tablecloths today are lovely linens that enhance the appearance of a table, but that wasn't originally their sole use. At one time, tablecloths were meant to serve as towels; after dinner, guests would use it to wipe their hands and faces.

■ If you were to dine at an ancient Roman feast, you might find flamingo tongues on the menu -- they were considered a delicacy.

■ In 1981, two minor-league baseball teams, the Rochester Red Wings and the Pawtucket Red Sox, played what might be the longest game in baseball history -- a full 32 innings. And after all that, there wasn't even a winner: The game ended in a 2-2 tie.

■ If you needed more evidence that we live in a materialistic society, consider this: Statistics show that more people in America go to shopping malls every week than attend churches and synagogues.

■ The long tails that are spread out in the sky behind comets are vapor trails, but the vapor is spread pretty thin. In fact, if you condensed all the vapor in a 10,000-mile vapor trail, it would take up less than 1 cubic inch.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "Very few people do anything creative after the age of 35. The reason is that very few people do anything creative before the age of 35." -- Joel Hildebrand

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THOMAS JEFFERSON QUOTES

R J G D Z W T Q N K H D A X U
R P M J M G D A X V S Q N K I
F D A X E V T Q O M J H F C A
S Y W U A R P N E L J H H F D
B E Z X S L V T R R Q O T M K
I H H F U K T D U E O B I Z Y
W V T C R R Q O E D D M W O L
N L K O E K H I H R H N E L F
D I W C D E R A T A H T I H A
Z I X W H V P U Y H V W D F T
E H T T A H T S B S M E E S I

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Speeches	hour	I find	the more
that are	will	that the	luck I
measured	die with	(clue answer)	seem
by the	the hour.	I work,	to have.

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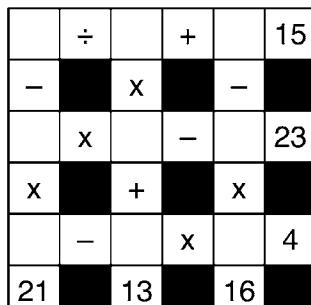
GO FIGURE!

by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

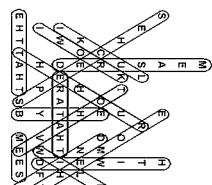
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!



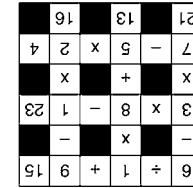
1 1 2 3 5 6 7 8 9

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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER



Dogs need love, not Treats

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I just read your column about rewarding dogs with "treats" for good behavior. Treats are fine if you're teaching them to sit up, roll over or jump through a hoop. In my almost 80 years I've had many dogs that were all well-mannered without giving them treats. A pleasant voice, a big hug, a pat on the head and "good dog" work nicely as a reward.

My reasoning is that you don't give your children candy when you are teaching them proper behavior. My dogs get treats when they least expect one. That's a "treat"!

I've shown dogs in dog shows and never "baited" them with treats. Being in the show was a treat, because we were having fun. We won many ribbons and "Best of Breed" without them. Being a champion is its own reward!

Dogs are smart, and they sense your feelings, whether it's fear, anxiety or pleasure, and react to your attitude and body language. Kindness, patience and consistency work well without using treats.

The real reward for a dog is being



Paw's Corner

by Sam Mazzotta

loved and cared for.

Sincerely, — K.H.S., Fairport, N.Y.

DEAR K.H.S.: Well, I can't argue with that. Great advice, and something to consider when training your dog, whether for basic obedience or for a show. You said it all, and I thank you!

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paws Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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No-cook gazpacho is a taste of Spain

Donna's Day Creative family fun
by Donna Erickson

wise with crust removed

- 3 tablespoons butter or olive oil
- 1 garlic clove, pressed
- 1 tablespoon grated Parmesan cheese (optional)
- Salt and pepper to taste

Make shapes from bread with favorite mini cookie cutters.

Combine melted butter or olive oil with garlic and salt and pepper. Brush



on top of cutouts. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese (optional).

Bake in 350 F oven for 10 minutes.

Tip: Put freezer-safe serving bowls for gazpacho in freezer before serving.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER

ANSWER

Let your child mix all ingredients together in a large bowl. Refrigerate for at least two hours to chill and enhance the flavor. Scoop into a serving bowl and top with shaped croutons.

SHAPED CROUTONS

- 1 loaf French bread sliced length-

Life & Style

'Mad Men,' 'Damages' make Emmy history

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Basic cable TV looked more like a pop-culture bargain Thursday as AMC's "Mad Men" and FX's "Damages" snared historic best-series Emmy nominations, while stars from cable's less glamorous channels also made a splash in major acting categories.

Meanwhile, premium channel HBO and broadcast networks saw their share of awards glory erode.

In the lead drama actor category, four of the six nominees were stars of cable shows, including Jon Hamm of "Mad Men." The sleek drama about 1960s America set in New York's advertising world was

also the leading drama series contender with 16 nominations.

Three best-actress nods also went to cable series stars, including Glenn Close of "Damages." The hard-nosed legal drama joins "Mad Men" as the first basic cable show put up for best series.

"I think it's changed the landscape of television," Close said of basic cable's growing creative strength.

HBO failed to field a best-drama series contender for the first time since 1998, after its now-departed "The Sopranos" claimed the honor last year. The premium cable channel still scored a leading 85 bids overall, followed by ABC with 76.

Boosting HBO's total was the historical drama "John Adams," the overall front-runner with a record 23 bids. That included a lead-actor nomination for Paul Giamatti's turn as one of America's founding fathers.

"30 Rock," last year's best comedy series winner, was the top nominee among sitcoms with 17 bids. Other best comedy series nominees were "Curb Your Enthusiasm," "Entourage," "The Office" and "Two And a Half Men."

"The Wire," the just-ended, critically acclaimed HBO drama about police and drug dealers in Baltimore, lost its last shot at a best-drama nod after years of Emmy snubs.

It received one nomination Thursday, for writing.

But other cable series made a serious dent in several top categories, gaining further ground on the networks. Broadcast favorites that failed to make a serious showing included "Grey's Anatomy" and "Desperate Housewives," both left out of the best-series categories. "Grey's" stars Sandra Oh and Chandra Wilson received nominations - but the "Desperate" cast was shut out.

"Lost," rebounding with a well-received season, joined "Mad Men" and "Damages" in the best-drama series category with six nominees, including "Boston Legal," "Dexter"

and "House." Only one acting nomination went to "Lost," a best-supporting actor nod for Michael Emerson's role as the manipulative Ben.

Oh and Wilson are competing in the best supporting drama actress category that last year was won by castmate Katherine Heigl - who took herself out of the running this time, blaming her decision on lackluster scripts.

Joining Hamm with lead drama acting nods were last year's winner James Spader, "Boston Legal," Bryan Cranston of "Breaking Bad," Michael C. Hall, "Dexter," Hugh Laurie, "House" and Gabriel Byrne, "In Treatment."

"I'm surprised," Hamm said. "For someone like me to be included is amazing. Look at this list: These are people I've been watching, and been a fan of, for years and years. It's a genuinely wonderful feeling."

Close's competition for lead drama actress honors includes 2007 winner Sally Field for

"Brothers & Sisters," Kyra Sedgwick, "The Closer," Mariska Hargitay, "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit" and Holly Hunter, "Saving Grace."

"I'm very honored," Field said in an email. "It never gets old. I do, but it doesn't."

"Damages," in which Close plays a tough-as-nails litigator, won critical acclaim last year but not great ratings. Close is hoping the Emmy attention will boost the show's audience for season two.

"We need all the help we can get," said Close, who was being driven to a shooting location on Long Island when her sister, Nancy, called her cell phone with the nomination news.

As for her nomination, she was more sanguine.

"I don't believe in comparison among artists," she said, "but, given the amazing number of talented people in this profession, to be included with a distinguished group of people is a huge honor."

AP Exclusive: A digital Albom through Kindle

NEW YORK (AP)—Mitch Albom has a new book out - well, not really a book, but a commencement speech in book form. And not in traditional book form, but as an e-book, published exclusively through Amazon.com's Kindle reader.

"Commencement Speech To His Nephew's Graduating Class: May 30, 2008, Nice France" went on sale Thursday for 99 cents. It won't be a money maker for Albom - proceeds are being donated to a Detroit-based charity for the homeless - but it does offer a test for the digital device that has created a great debate about the future of books and great speculation over how much the Kindle is part of that future.

Albom, whose speech was delivered at The International School Of Nice, said in a statement Thursday: "The immediacy of the Internet and what Amazon is doing with Kindle is interesting to me, as it is to many authors."

Laura Porco, the Kindle's director of publisher management, said Thursday that Amazon.com has been talking with publishers about bringing readers content that isn't available in book form and expects more releases similar to the Albom speech.

E-books are unquestionably growing although public sightings of the Kindle remain rare enough that one blog, Silicon Alley Insider, announced last month, "Imagine our delight when we got on the subway, sat down, and saw a person reading an Amazon Kindle - right in front of us! - for the first time since it launched last November."

Albom's speech could be a way to measure the Kindle connection. He is a brand-name author whose million sellers in



Actors Elisabeth Moss, left, Christina Hendricks and John Slattery are seen at the set of "Mad Men" at the Los Angeles Center Studios in Los Angeles on Thursday, July 17, 2008. "Mad Men," the sleek drama about 1960s America set in New York's advertising world was the leading drama series contender with 16 Emmy nominations.

'30 Rock' gets 7 Emmy noms for guest stars

NEW YORK (AP)—An appearance on "30 Rock" may be the best gig in television.

Seven actors were nominated Thursday for their guest performances on the NBC comedy, a near monopoly on the categories for guest actors and actresses in a comedy series - Edie Falco, Steve Buscemi, Will Arnett, Carrie Fisher, Elaine Stritch, Rip Torn and Tim Conway.

"They write great parts for all the regulars on the show and they write great parts for the people who get to come on the show," Arnett said Thursday. "When they bring guest characters on to the show, they really try to give them something to do."

Arnett, who was previously nominated for a performance on "Arrested Development," said he thought Tina Fey and her

writing staff are very generous with the parts, giving guests a lot of room to fit into an already crowded cast. As the nemesis of Jack Donaghy (Alec Baldwin), Arnett plays an ambitious executive who can't stop revealing his Achilles' heel: his infatuation with NBC page Kenneth Parcell (Jack McBrayer).

"30 Rock" pulled in 17 nominations, including outstanding comedy series and acting nods for Fey and Baldwin. Last year, it won the Emmy for best comedy series, and Stritch took home an award for her guest performance.

Rip Torn, who plays Donaghy's boss, said: "In comedy the most important thing is the people you're acting with. Working with Tina Fey and Alec Baldwin, you're

more than halfway there."

"30 Rock" was conceived as a show about the people behind the scenes of a sketch comedy program like "Saturday Night Live" - where Fey was head writer and got accustomed to penning material for different hosts each week. (Fey also was nominated for her hosting job on "SNL" last season.)

Jennifer McNamara Shroff, who was nominated for her casting job on "30 Rock," credited both the show's cast and writers.

"That being said, our goal next year is a clean sweep of all acting categories and then a tie so everyone wins," Shroff joked.

Among the "30 Rock" guests who were NOT nominated: Jerry Seinfeld, David Schwimmer and Al Gore.

James Brown items auctioned



This undated photo supplied by Christie's auction house shows a group of the late singer James Brown's sunglasses. The lot of sunglasses is among 320 items being sold by Christie's Thursday July 17, 2008.

NEW YORK (AP)—James Brown mementoes ranging from his signature capes to a medical bracelet fetched thousands of dollars Thursday at an auction, which the soul icon's children protested.

Fans and collectors packed a Christie's salesroom as more than 300 lots of Brown's belongings were sold, bringing in a total of \$857,688, the auction house said. Bidding rocketed past estimates for many of the items, which included some of

the of Soul's furniture, musical instruments and a poem Muhammad wrote for him.

"Late Show with David Letterman" band leader Paul Shaffer bid \$32,500 to win the medical bracelet, which went for more than 100 times its presale estimate, Christie's said. The bracelet said Brown, singer of hits such as "Papa's Got a Brand New Bag" and "I Got You (I Feel Good)," was a diabetic and was allergic to penicillin.

Brown died of heart failure on Christmas Day 2006, at age 73. His estate has been mired in turmoil and contention.

Court-appointed trustees announced in January that the singer's possessions would be auctioned, in part to pay taxes his estate owed. His former business managers tried unsuccessfully to block Thursday's sale, and Brown's children lambasted it.

"We were given a list of things and asked to go through and

check off things that we didn't think should go, and we were just ignored," one of Brown's daughters, Deanna Brown Thomas, said Thursday on the Rev. Al Sharpton's radio show. "At end of the day, everything went."

On the auction block went the denim jumpsuit Brown wore for the 1974 concert preceding the "Rumble in the Jungle" boxing bout between Ali and George Foreman. The jumpsuit, embellished with studs spelling out "GFOS," for "Godfather of Soul," sold for \$25,000, Christie's said.

Ali's typewritten poem—"King James Brown by Muhammad Ali, The World's Greatest Poet, King of all Poets, On Behalf of the People of Western New York" - fetched the same price.

Brown was known for donning and doffing elaborate capes during his shows, and some of them were among the auction's highlights. An intricately beaded, black satin cape went for \$47,500; a blue satin one embroidered with "Thy Name Is Godfather of Soul" fetched \$35,000.

The buyers' names weren't released. All the prices included the auction house's commission, known as the buyer's premium.

Amy Poehler says she's bound for 'Office' spinoff

NEW YORK (AP)—Amy Poehler confirmed to The Associated Press that she'll be joining the planned "Office" spinoff, paving the way for her eventual exit from "Saturday Night Live" and promoting the comedian to primetime.

Speaking by phone Thursday shortly after her Emmy nomination for outstanding actress in a comedy series on "SNL," Poehler said she will join NBC's spinoff of "The Office." She's expected to star.

"I can kind of confirm that I will be working in some capacity on that show," said Poehler. "I don't really have any other details yet."

The 36-year-old Poehler has been a cast member on "Saturday Night Live" since 2001 and in recent seasons has served as a co-anchor on "Weekend Update."

Poehler, whose husband Will Arnett also received an Emmy nomination Thursday (for his guest performance on "30 Rock"), is pregnant and due this October. She plans to be part of the expanded fall schedule for "Saturday Night Live" during the election, but that what happens in the spring isn't clear.

"It's been quite a week," said Poehler of the negotiations. "I'm very excited about all the good stuff that's coming down the pike."

A spokesman for NBC said the network had no comment.

'Jackson should pay for N-word'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—When Michael Richards stunned a nightclub audience two years ago by shouting the N-word at a black patron, Laugh Factory owner Jamie Masada was quick to join the Rev. Jesse Jackson in calling for a ban on the word's use.

Now that Jackson has let the word slip out, Masada says he wants the civil rights leader to do what comics do every time they say the word on a Laugh Factory stage - pay a fine.

"Unfortunately, Jesse Jackson

has broken his own principles," Masada told The Associated Press on Thursday. "Jesse embraced the notion of fining talent for using such a word and he should be held to his own standards."

Fox News confirmed Thursday that Jackson used the word during a break in a TV interview when he criticized Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama.

Jackson, who is traveling in Spain, apologized in a statement

Wednesday for "hurtful words" but didn't offer specifics.

Masada said he fines comics \$50 for every time they use the word in their act, and he wants Jackson to pay the same amount, to Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles.

Masada banned use of the word at his nightclubs shortly after Richards' outburst, and although he said several comics still use it in their act, he added that they are quick to pay the fines to charity.

famous musical sons.

"We would obviously condemn the decision. It undermines national legislation on architectural heritage because of the number of protected sites being demolished," said Ian Lumley, an officer with An Taisce, Ireland's heritage-protection organization.

Lumley said Foster's grandiose design was "a very impressively conceived scheme but in the wrong place. This would not be allowed in areas of comparable sensitivity in any other European countries."

The planning authority ordered the developers to preserve the facades of six buildings: the 1930s Art Deco original hotel and five other adjacent Georgian and Victorian properties being swallowed up by the future Clarence. It also ordered that an archaeologist be on the construction site at all times.

The planning panel said Foster's envisioned hotel "would provide a building of unique

quality and architectural distinction" that would "in time become a significant feature in vistas along the Liffey (River) and would ensure the continued historic hotel use of a signature building."

Conservationists had successfully blocked an earlier, even bigger design for the hotel's redevelopment and fought the scaled-down Foster plans. The Irish government's environmental department also opposed the plans, as did a council-hired conservation architect, Claire Hogan.

Bono, The Edge and U2's other members—bassist Adam Clayton and drummer Larry Mullen—are among Ireland's wealthiest residents. In 2006 the band moved its royalties-collection company to Amsterdam, Holland, to maintain the tax-free status of their music profits, even as they have continued to amass a property portfolio in their homeland.

The spokesman for NBC said the network had no comment.

U2's Bono, Edge win hotel legal battle

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP)—U2 stars Bono and The Edge won a four-year legal battle Thursday to reshape their old-fashioned Dublin hotel, the Clarence, into a futuristic landmark—a decision that appeared to fly in the face of Ireland's conservative planning laws.

Ireland's planning board approved a \$235 million plan produced by British architect Lord Norman Foster to gut and drastically expand the riverside hotel. The new complex would more than triple the number of its rooms to 166 and would feature a massive, floodlit glass roof atrium.

Bono, The Edge and their property-development partner Paddy McKillen said that the verdict was "great news for Dublin and for Temple Bar in particular." Temple Bar is the neighboring cobblestone-street tourist district packed with pubs and music.

Their opponents said, however, that the decision demonstrated the exceptional political clout wielded by Dublin's most

Family incredulous at birth of unexpected bundle of joy

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: Our son "Sean" is 20 and has been going with a girl 2 1/2 years older than he is. I'll call her "Taryn." When we first met Taryn we liked her very much. She was chubby, and Sean told us she was on a diet. We found out later Taryn was 5 1/2 months pregnant.

As time went on, she grew larger and larger. We asked Sean if she could be pregnant. He told us he had asked her and she said no, that she was just built like her mother. (She told her co-workers the same thing.)

Late one night, our surprised and upset son called to tell us Taryn had just delivered a full-term, 7-pound baby boy. Her doctor and her friends have all said she didn't know what was going on. Even after the baby was born, she asked the doctor "what was happening?" She couldn't believe she'd had a baby. Taryn told Sean she had had her period the whole nine months and never felt the baby move.

The doctor told my son that some girls don't know when they are pregnant, so now he believes her! We have had many family discussions about this. I am the mother of six children, and I always knew when I was pregnant.

Is it possible that she didn't know she was pregnant, even though she had been asked directly more than once? We feel Taryn has been lying to Sean the whole time. We haven't seen her since the birth. She's living with and being supported by her parents. Sean loves Taryn and the baby and plans to marry her and adopt the boy. Please help us.

FLABBERGASTED PARENTS IN NEW MEXICO

DEAR PARENTS: Although it is highly unusual, it is not unheard of for a woman to conceive and carry a baby to term without knowing she's pregnant. It does stretch the imagination—among other things—for her to deliver the baby and still ask what's going on. Because her doctor says this was the case with Taryn, who are we to say otherwise?

Please remember, your son is in love with this young woman. He plans to marry her. So your wisest course of action would be to accept Taryn and the baby and make the best of this uncomfortable situation. To do otherwise will estrange your son from you. Also, it's clear your daughter-in-law-to-be needs the mentoring of as many mature women in her life as possible.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: In the past few years several of my friends moved out of state. Before they left, they gave me items they couldn't take along. They said I could keep the stuff or have a yard sale.

Now these friends have returned and are asking for their things back. I feel like I was used as a temporary storage facility. This has happened to me three different times.

I have been using the items as mine, feeling they belonged to me. I think I'm being used. How should I respond to these people?

RESENTFUL IN SUNNY CALIFORNIA

DEAR RESENTFUL: Because these people gave you the items to do with as you wished—to keep or to sell—they belong to you. How you respond to their request depends upon how much you value their friendship, because your refusal to return them could become a bone of contention.

In the future when someone asks to leave furniture with you, make sure to have the terms put clearly in writing. Because this has happened to you three different times, there appears to have been a serious breakdown in communication somewhere along the line.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



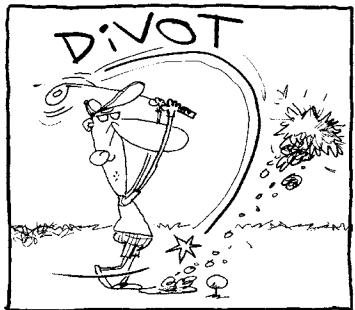
By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



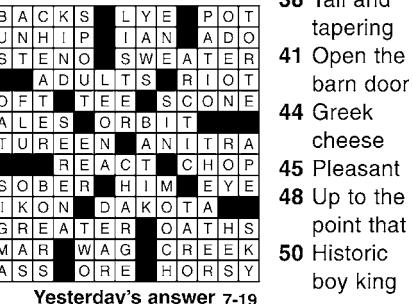
By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	40	Mary's	DOWN	13	Kilmer
1	Powdered	sitcom	1	Not quite	classic
tobacco	boss		18	Remnant	
6	Jagged-edged	42 Harvest	2	Marginalia	Hadr-
		43 Judge	21	writers	maut's
11	Harlem theater	Lance	3	Last (Abbr.)	land
12	Sci-fi hybrid	44 Robin Hood	23	Hypnotized	
14	Pancake makeup	portrayer	4	Dog bane	25 Whole
15	Improved	46 Tackle moguls	5	Do without	amount
16	Tramcar load	47 Creamery product	6	Involve in conflict	27 Blue
17	Antiquing equipment	49 Acerbic	7	Wishes otherwise	29 Water-
19	Incense	51 Where originally located	8	Mel of Coopers-	wheel
20	Quite	52 Keenness	31	town	power
22	Yoko —	53 "I'm Not There."	32	Plump	source
23	Desire	subject	33	Foot	31 Out, of sorts?
24	Mississippi quartet	54 New again	34	Sauce	32 Plump
26	Walt's kin	10 Pep Over	36	source	33 Foot
28	Silent		37	Rouse to action	34 Sauce
30	Young chap		38	Startliking	36 Rouse to
31	Greek moon goddess		39	Tall and tapering	37 Startliking
35	Economy woes		40	Open the barn door	38 Tall and
39	Symbol of craziness		44	Greek cheese	41 Open the barn door
			45	Pleasant	44 Greek cheese
			48	Up to the point that	45 Pleasant
			50	Historic boy king	48 Up to the point that

Solution time: 27 mins.



Yesterday's answer 7-19

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Steven Anthony Lawrence, 18; Jared Padalecki, 26; Anthony Edwards, 46; Vikki Carr, 67

Happy Birthday: Love and happiness, fame and fortune -- whatever your goals, strive to achieve them. Your desire to do your best will be what's remembered in the end. You've got plenty to work with and, with a little fine tuning, others will recognize what you have to offer. Your numbers are 10, 19, 27, 33, 37, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): If you give a little, you'll get a little back in return. The more time you spend separating yourself from the crowd, the better your chances are to attract interest in what you do. Do your thing. ☀️☀️

Taurus (April 20-May 20): As long as you aren't overly emotional and you give straight facts, conversations regarding business and personal issues will go well. You can resolve any misunderstandings or make amends with someone with whom you had a recent falling out. ☀️

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Touch base with people you haven't had a chance to see for a long time. It will bring back memories and help fuel the fire within you to do some things you used to enjoy so much. Taking part in an old interest will lead to new friendships, as well. ☀️☀️☀️

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may be tempted to help someone out who should be responsible for his or her own doings. Don't invest in someone or something for the wrong reasons. A change at home will allow more

time for things you enjoy. ☀️☀️

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Love is certainly accentuated but, whether it's hot and passionate or argumentative will depend on how you handle matters. Be honest regarding your intentions. You can end a relationship that is not good for you or begin one that exceeds your expectations. ☀️☀️

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take care of your health and well-being or that of someone who depends on you like a pet, child or older relative. Dealing with other people's problems will pay off in what you learn. An idea you have will make your home more accessible for others. ☀️☀️

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The more time spent doing something creative that allows you to develop one of your talents, the better. A love connection will strengthen if you share common interests. Don't go overboard with spending. ☀️☀️☀️

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Stick to what you do best. Getting into a lengthy discussion with someone you are emotionally attached to will not bode well. Focus on a project you are involved in, not dealing with someone who is probably not telling the truth. ☀️

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may have things to iron out but don't pass up an idea you have because it's not convenient for someone who wants you to do for him or her. Put your needs first. You will get important things done today. ☀️☀️

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COURTESY 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): This is not the time to relax and take it easy, especially if you have personal issues with someone close to you. Someone will be waiting for you to make a costly mistake. A conservative investment you made a long time ago will help you out now. ☀️☀️

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Love is on the rise so persuade someone you love to engage in the things you want to do. Getting involved in a particular hobby, group or activity will enhance your relationship and help build your confidence. ☀️☀️

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may end up in hot water if someone leaks information you don't want revealed. Admitting something before it is brought to everyone's attention will help lessen the consequence. To move forward, you have to deal with the past. ☀️☀️

Birthday Baby: You are a competitor with big ideas and great insight. You are intelligent and practical, an ardent lover and protector.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	1		5	2	
5		4	3		1
	2	5			
	9	7	5	8	
8				3	
9	3	7	5		
					2
1		9			
6	4	3			

Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	6	7	8	4	9	5	2	1
2	8	1	7	3	5	9	4	6
5	9	4	6	2	1	3	7	8
9	7	2	3	6	4	8	1	5
8	1	3	9	5	7	4	6	2
6	4	5	2	1	8	7	9	3
7	5	9	1	8	6	2	3	4
4	2	6	5	7	3	1	8	9
1	3	8	4	9	2	6	5	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE PHARAOHS OF EGYPT

Solution: 9 letters

N	T	C	U	S	T	O	M	S	C	N	B	M	O	T
S	U	A	U	K	T	I	B	E	H	S	W	H	E	L
U	S	M	N	T	N	E	I	C	N	A	R	O	E	O
I	P	B	A	T	H	R	O	N	E	P	S	A	R	H
R	E	Y	K	H	A	B	A	B	A	S	H	R	W	C
A	H	S	I	D	K	M	E	L	R	O	Y	A	L	E
D	S	E	T	L	L	N	A	R	O	P	N	H	S	N
H	T	S	M	E	A	C	A	N	E	G	I	P	T	Y
A	A	P	A	I	E	U	E	T	I	N	R	Y	R	T
K	H	D	S	H	A	L	T	E	U	E	I	O	E	S
O	E	M	P	S	P	I	R	I	T	T	T	C	S	A
R	E	S	O	M	T	U	H	T	R	S	A	E	E	N
(N)	(I)	(L)	(E)	S	L	T	Y	I	I	E	I	L	D	Y
S	E	T	I	E	E	R	B	H	P	Z	D	E	E	D
A	P	I	R	A	T	E	S	M	E	R	D	I	S	S

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CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

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CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

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• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

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All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	\$13.00
2nd position	\$5.00
Succeeding positions	\$2.00

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- *Saipan Tribune*: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



Tigers use 3 homers to dump Orioles, 6-5



BALTIMORE (AP)—

Gary Sheffield and Brandon Inge hit two-run homers, Marcus Thames added a solo shot, and the Detroit Tigers resumed their playoff drive by defeating the Baltimore Orioles 6-5 on Thursday night.

Kenny Rogers (7-6) allowed four runs and 11 hits in six gritty innings for the Tigers, who moved within 6 1/2 games of first-place Chicago in the AL Central. Detroit has won 24 of 35 since June 6.

Todd Jones, the fifth Detroit pitcher, worked the ninth for his 18th save. After Aubrey Huff hit a one-out sacrifice fly with the bases loaded, Jones retired Kevin Millar on a grounder to third.

Melvin Mora homered for the Orioles, who have dropped eight of nine to fall four games under .500 (45-49) for the first time this season.

Baltimore starter Garrett Olson (6-5) gave up five runs, seven hits and four walks in six innings. The rookie has allowed 18 runs over 15 innings in his last three starts.

Inge gave the Tigers a 5-4 lead in the sixth with his seventh homer that followed a two-out single by Edgar Renteria. It was his first home run on the road since May 17, 2007, at Boston.

Baltimore got runners at the corners with no outs in the bottom half, but Rogers got out of the jam. Ramon Hernandez got caught in a rundown after breaking to the plate on a grounder by Brandon Fahey, then Brian Roberts hit into a 5-3 double play.

That ended Rogers' night, but the 43-year-old stuck around long enough to earn his 217th victory, tied with former Detroit star Mickey Lolich for 19th place on the career list among left-handers.

Thames connected off Dennis Sarfate in the seventh to make it 6-4. In the eighth, Sheffield was robbed of another home run when Jay Payton reached over the wall to snare his drive to left.

Sheffield put the Tigers up 2-0 in the second with his 486th career homer following a walk to Miguel Cabrera. It was his sixth home run of the season, and first since June 26.

Baltimore used four straight hits to pull even in the bottom half, including a run-scoring double by Mora and an RBI single by Hernandez.

Each team scored a run in the third. Detroit used doubles by Curtis Granderson and Thames to take the lead before Roberts doubled and scored on a grounder by Nick Markakis.

Mora's 12th homer put Baltimore ahead for the first time, 4-3 in the fourth. Rogers avoided further damage by striking out Adam Jones with the bases loaded and two outs.

Mets 10, Reds 8

At Cincinnati, David Wright's two-run homer in the ninth inning rallied New York to its 10th



AP
Detroit Tigers' Gary Sheffield trots home after hitting a two-run home run against the Baltimore Orioles in the second inning of a baseball game Thursday, July 17, 2008, in Baltimore.

Vikings won't comment on charges about Favre



MINNEAPOLIS

(AP)—The Minnesota Vikings declined Thursday to talk about allegations by the Green Bay Packers that they made inappropriate contact with quarterback Brett Favre. Vikings spokesman Bob Hagan issued a two-sentence statement on Thursday. It said the Vikings “are not commenting on the issue. These types of matters are handled by the league.”

A person familiar with the Packers’ complaint told The Associated Press Wednesday night that Green Bay has filed tampering charges against the Vikings.

The person, who requested anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject, said Packers officials believe Vikings

Ravens, Flacco agree to deal

OWINGS MILLS, Md.

(AP)—The Baltimore Ravens have agreed in principle to a five-year deal with first-round draft pick Joe Flacco on a contract with a maximum value of \$30 million that includes \$8.75 million in guaranteed money for the quarterback.

Flacco’s agent, Joe Linta,

confirmed the Wednesday night deal.

Drafted 18th overall out of Delaware, Flacco is slated to compete for the starting job with Troy Smith and Kyle Boller. Rookies, quarterbacks and injured veterans are scheduled to training camp Monday at McDaniel College in Westminster.

something (in place), and that’s why he was so anxious to get his release all of a sudden,” the person said.

Favre and Bevell are friends going back to Bevell’s days as an assistant in Green Bay. The three-time MVP retired in March, but has since said that he

wants to return, which has led to a messy back-and-forth with Packers GM Ted Thompson.

The Packers told The AP that they were ready to welcome Favre back to the team later in March when Favre expressed reservations about his decision to retire, only to be assured by the quarterback that he was finished.

Favre has said that he felt pressured by the Packers to retire and now has been told that if he returns to Green Bay, he wouldn’t necessarily get the starting job back.

Vikings coach Brad Childress called the situation a “soap opera,” and said Tuesday that it has been interesting to watch but he remained committed to going forward with Tarvaris Jackson as his starting quarterback.

But the Packers think the Vikings have had other ideas since Favre held a tearful retirement press conference on March 6.

The team told the league that it believes an investigation of phone records will show more than “normal contact” between Favre and Bevell, even before he formally asked for his release to play for another team.

Bevell and Favre grew to be close friends during Bevell’s three years as quarterbacks coach with the Packers from 2003-05. The two remained in contact after Bevell left to become the offensive coordinator of the Vikings.

Bevell was not available to comment on Thursday and neither were any other Vikings officials, Hagan said.

Source: Yankees reach deal with Richie Sexson

NEW YORK (AP)—First baseman Richie Sexson and the New York Yankees reached a deal Thursday, a week after the Seattle Mariners cut the slumping slugger. A person familiar with the contract said Sexson would be paid a prorated share of the \$390,000 minimum salary. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because an official announcement had not been made.

ESPN.com first reported a tentative agreement between Sexson and the Yankees.

The Yankees were eager to add a powerful right-handed bat as they start the second half of the season. They went into the All-Star break third in the AL East, six games behind Boston.

Sexson hit .344 with five home runs in 71 at-bats against lefties this year. That was his bright spot during a season in which the 33-year-old Sexson hit .218 overall with 11 homers and 30 RBIs.

The Yankees picked up a fraction of Sexson’s contract, leaving the Mariners to pay the rest of his \$14 million salary.

New York is minus two of its top hitters. Leadoff man Johnny Damon is on the disabled list because of an injured left shoulder and Hideki Matsui is sidelined with a sore knee that could require season-ending surgery.

The Yankees’ lineup is packed with left-handed hitters—Damon, Matsui, Jason Giambi, Bobby Abreu and Robinson Cano swing from that side—and New York has struggled against lefty pitching all year.

A native of Brush Prairie, Wash., the 6-foot-8 Sexson became a frequent target of boobirds in Seattle over the past two years. He hit a career-low .205 with 21 homers and 100 strikeouts in 2007, and often was benched in favor of Miguel Cairo this season.

Seattle, one of baseball’s biggest disappointments this year, released Sexson right before the All-Star break.

Sexson has hit 30 or more homers six times, and also has six seasons of at least 100 RBIs. He started his major league career in 1997 with Cleveland and later played for Milwaukee and Arizona.

Sexson signed a \$50 million, four-year contract with the Mariners in December 2004. He topped 30 homers and 100 RBIs in his first two seasons, then dropped off significantly last year.

Yao Ming returns to action for China



HANGZHOU, China (AP)—Yao Ming is back, transforming China's basketball team and providing a big relief for Olympic organizers.

The Houston Rockets center marked his return from injury Thursday with 11 points in just over 12 minutes of play for the Chinese national team in an Olympics warmup against a Serbian squad.

Entering six minutes into the first quarter to huge applause from the crowd in the eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou, Yao appeared a little rusty, but made a solid contribution to China's kickoff 96-72 victory in the four-team Stankovic Cup tournament.

The game was Yao's first since a stress fracture in his left foot ended his NBA season in February and threatened his star turn as part of China's team.

The injury has caused major concern among China's Olympic organizers expecting him to become the face of the games and his return was certain to help them sleep easier. Yao is considered a leading candidate to carry the Olympic torch on its final leg into Beijing's grandiose new National Stadium.

Yao shot 70 percent from the free throw line, where he scored seven of his points.

He also had four rebounds, one of them on the offensive end, and seemed to find his groove defensively, despite being scored on twice by 7-foot-3 Boban Marjanovic.



China's Yao Ming (13) aims to score as Serbia's Boban Marjanovic (12) blocks during their match of the Stankovic Cup international basketball tournament Thursday, July 17, 2008, in Hangzhou, China.

Serbian captain Dusan Katic said his team benefited from playing against Yao.

"It was an honor," Katic said. "You don't play against Yao every day and it was a great experience that will make us a better team."

China's taciturn coach, Jonas Kazlauskas, was practically gushing in his praise for his 7-foot-6 center.

"Yao tried very hard," the Lithuanian said. "He had no big problems on defense."

Yao walked off the court after the game without speaking to reporters.

Xue Zhen, basketball editor for leading newspaper *Titan Sports*, said Yao's appearance at the Stankovic Cup served as a massive confidence booster, even if his form wasn't 100 percent.

"This is Yao's Olympic mission," Xue said. "His presence is extraordinarily powerful, and the team is built around him."

"Without Yao, China will become a totally different team."

Former Dallas Mavericks center Wang Zhizhi led the Chinese team with 18 points, with 14 more added by Yi Jianlian, recently acquired by the New Jersey Nets.

China is also scheduled to play test games against Angola and Russia.

Yao returned to light training late last month after X-rays and an MRI scan taken in Houston showed his recovery was on schedule, at about 80 percent healed. Such injuries usually take a year to fully heal.

Tour de France rocked again by doping allegations



**N A R -
B O N N E ,
F r a n c e
(A P) —**

With the competition reduced to an afterthought, the Tour de France was rocked by another drug bust Thursday that left cycling's showpiece event all but synonymous with doping.

This was the third time in this race that a rider has been caught, and it netted the biggest name yet: Italy's Riccardo Ricco, a winner of two stages.

"You can't believe that a wave of a magic wand can change the world of cycling," Patrice Clerc, head of Tour organizer ASO, told a news conference. "It's going to take time."

Ricco was expelled from the race and detained by police to the boos of fans. His Saunier Duval team pulled out of the Tour and suspended all its activities. This is the third straight year the Tour has been undercut by doping.

The day's 12th stage was won by Mark Cavendish of Britain while Cadel Evans of Australia retained the yellow jersey. But, as is often the case in cycling, drugs overshadowed all.

"May the cheaters get caught. May they go away," Tour president Christian Prudhomme said. "I said to the riders before the race, behind closed doors, that you have the key. ... Some didn't get the message."

Evans welcomed the drug busts, and "that the sport is being cleaned up in serious, fair and transparent way. Our sport is being crucified for doing the right thing."

As the stage got under way, Evans rode alongside the car of the Tour director, and said: "Rest

assured, we're on the road toward a clean sport," Prudhomme told The Associated Press.

All three riders were ousted for the performance enhancer EPO—cycling's drug of choice. Ricco tested positive after the fourth stage, a time trial in Cholet.

"It's just amazing. It's irresponsible," said David Millar, a British rider with the Garmin-Chipotle team. "This guy does not have any love or care for the sport."

Millar, who rode with Saunier Duval last year, has become a leading critic of drug use after serving a two-year doping ban.

The Saunier Duval bus was later detained by gendarmes, and its contents were inspected, the state prosecutor for the Foix region, Antoine Leroy, said by phone.

Pierre Bordry, head of the French anti-doping agency, announced the positive result just before the stage. Some of Ricco's teammates had already taken the starting line before returning to the team bus.

"It's a team decision not to start the race," Saunier Duval sporting director Matxin Fernandez said. "He's our leader. We can't act as if nothing happened."

Ricco, the Giro d'Italia runner-up, won the sixth and ninth stages of this Tour and was ninth overall entering Thursday.

He was 2 minutes, 29 seconds

behind Evans.

"We are learning that things that look too good to be true are too good to be true," Millar said.

The case was at least the ninth doping-related scandal at the last two Tours. Among those last year, Alexandre Vinokourov tested positive for a blood transfusion, Cristian Moreni was caught using testosterone, and

Iban Mayo—also with Saunier-Duval—tested positive for EPO, though he was later cleared by the Spanish cycling federation. Two years ago, U.S. Floyd Landis was stripped of his title after using synthetic testosterone.

Ricco had come under suspicion about what he says is his naturally high hematocrit level—the volume of red blood cells. High hematocrit levels can suggest EPO use but do not confirm it.

Following his victory in the ninth stage, Ricco said he has had high hematocrit levels

legations throughout his career and died of a cocaine overdose in 2004.

Ricco's ouster came as judicial officials questioned Spanish rider Moises Duenas Nevado, who was expelled from the race Wednesday. Duenas Nevado was detained by police in Tarbes, where his Barloworld team was staying. Police searched his hotel room.

Gerard Aldige, the state prosecutor in Tarbes, told the AP that police found "numerous small medical materials like syringes,



Riccardo Ricco of Italy of the Saunier Duval-Scott cycling team gets out of the team bus as he is about to be led away by French gendarmes prior to the start of the 12th stage of the Tour de France cycling race between Lavelanet and Narbonne, southern France, Thursday July 17, 2008.

"since I was little," adding he hoped "everybody will stop speaking about that."

Ricco's popularity in Italy rocketed with his two stage wins, drawing front-page coverage in the soccer-focused *Gazzetta dello Sport*.

The rider has said his idol was Marco Pantani, who in 1998 became the last Italian to win the Tour. Pantani faced doping al-

needs, and medical drip bags, which theoretically a cyclist should not have in his room."

Aldige said Duenas, who was released Thursday, faces preliminary criminal charges for "holding and using poisonous substances or plants" and "prohibited importing of merchandise."

Also found were capsules and gels, but their composition must be tested, Aldige said. He said

one medicine not authorized for sale in France was uncovered, though he did not elaborate.

Liquigas team rider Manuel Beltran, a former teammate of seven-time Tour winner Lance Armstrong, was kicked out of the Tour and sent home to Spain on July 11.

"The Tour needs to continue and get to the finish in Paris," International Cycling Union president Pat McQuaid said by phone. "It's another blow to the sport but I have to see it in light of the fact that they're getting caught and going to be thrown out."

In addition to Beltran, Floyd Landis, Roberto Heras and Tyler Hamilton—all former Postal riders during Armstrong's seven Tour wins—failed doping tests after quitting the Texan's team.

Saunier-Duval is the first team to drop out of this year's race. Last year, two teams withdrew and race leader Michael Rasmussen was kicked out days before the end for lying about his whereabouts to avoid pre-Tour testing.

This year, organizers pledged a tougher approach. Eight chaperones shadow riders after each stage, even climbing onto team buses, to ensure that cyclists go to doping checks.

On Thursday, Cavendish led a group sprint to the finish after the 105-mile ride from Lavelanet to Narbonne. Evans, trailing in the main pack, leads Frank Schleck of Luxembourg by one second and Christian Vande Velde of the United States by 38. It was Cavendish's third stage victory this year.

"Every time it's special," he said.

Cavendish, a Team Columbia rider, had never won a stage before this year. He was followed by Sebastien Chavanel of France and Gert Steegmans of Belgium.

The race moves along the Mediterranean on Friday for the 13th stage, a 113-mile ride from Narbonne to Nimes.

**Bucks sign G
Tyronn Lue,
F Malik Allen**



MILWAUKEE (AP)—The Milwaukee Bucks have signed guard Tyronn Lue and forward Malik Allen, giving new coach Scott Skiles two more veterans to work with.

The team did not reveal terms of either contract.

The 31-year-old Lue played for Atlanta and Dallas last season, averaging 5.8 points and 1.5 assists in 50 games.

The 6-foot guard was drafted out of Nebraska with the 23rd pick in the 1998 draft. He has averaged 8.9 points, 3.3 assists and 1.8 rebounds in his 10-year career, which included championship seasons with the Los Angeles Lakers in 2000 and 2001.

Allen began last season in New Jersey before being traded to Dallas. The 6-foot-10 Allen averaged 4.6 points and 2.7 rebounds last season and has averaged 5.7 points and 3.2 rebounds in his seven-year career.

Semis or bust for Coca-Cola, Magnolia



M A - N I L A , Philip- pine— After staving off elimination and forcing sudden death play-off, coach Binky Favis believes his Coca-Cola Tigers have a little more juice left in their system to complete a sensational comeback.

With their season on the brink, the Tigers gave their all Wednesday and pulled the rug from under the Magnolia Beverage Masters in a nerve-wracking shootout to pull off a scintillating 91-90 decision in the Game Two of their quarter-final series.

Coke's thrilling victory essayed with the help of rookie Ronjay Buenafe's 15-foot jumper with 7.2 seconds remaining provided some rays of hope to an already troubled semifinal bid.

"All we asked for is a new lease on life. With the game now tied and just one game left to decide it all, I think we have a good shot," said Favis.

The Coca-Cola mentor said he has strong reason to believe



Magnolia Beverage Masters forward Lordy Tugade in action against the Coca-Cola Ti-

best whenever our backs are against the wall," Favis said.

On Wednesday day, Favis played his veterans namely Alex Cabagnot, Asi Taulava, Mark Macapagal and Nic Belasco on extended minutes.

He is expected to dwell on the same pattern knowing too well that experience will be vital in Game 3.

The Coca-Cola-Magnolia showdown is set at 7 p.m.

Friday at the Ynares Center.

The winner will face eliminations topnotcher Air21 in a best-of-seven series. The other series will be contested by Red Bull and Barangay Ginebra. (www.pba.com.ph)

MEDIATE

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said. "It was just up and down, up and down, and a couple of birdies, and here we are. I would have been ecstatic with 73 or 74 today."

For those who thought his performance at Torrey Pines was merely a mirage, Mediate again found bright lines under leaden skies of the Lancashire Coast by bouncing back from three bogeys on the opening six holes by holing a 40-foot birdie putt on the 13th, chipping in from off the 17th green for birdie and ending his round with a 20-foot birdie.

"Crazy stuff," he said.

Norman made enough parsaving puts to sustain momentum and finish at 70 along with Australian protege Adam Scott and Bart Bryant.

The group at 71 included Retief Goosen, who might have played the best golf of anyone.

Goosen awoke at 2 a.m. when rain pelted his windows, and he caught the brunt of the bad weather his entire round. He still managed four birdies and was under par most of the round until a pair of late bogeys.

"How in the hell is he 1 under?" Pat Perez said from the warmth of the locker room after an 82. "I would pay to learn how to do that."

FAN

From Page 28

being declared the winner of his bout against John "Juan Two" Ogarto. Laayug's win was recorded as technical knockout

The leaders caught a break by getting slightly better weather, although it was by no means easy. The average score in the opening round was about 76, driven up by 19 rounds in the 80s.

But they arrived at Royal Birkdale in good form.

McDowell, the first-round leader down the coast at Royal Liverpool in 2006, won the Scottish Open four days ago at Loch Lomond. Allenby lost in a playoff at the Stanford St. Jude Classic in Memphis, Tenn., last month, and tied for third two weeks ago at Congressional.

Even so, the British Open lived up to its billing as the major that sometimes requires the most luck. It wasn't a goofy bounce but the tee times, thanks to weather that shifted along with the tide in the middle of the 15 hours of action.

"We did get the better side of the draw, no doubt about it," Norman said. "When you watch it in the morning, you feel sorry for the guys. But there's times when you say, 'Well, I've been there before. I've been on that side of the draw, too.' It all balances out, and you have to take advantage of it."

Former Masters champion Mike Weir did his best in the morning, making an eagle on the 17th for a 71.

Sergio Garcia, the betting favorite at Birkdale with Woods on the disabled list, was among

the late starters but did not make his first birdie until the par-5 15th and had to settle for a 72. Also at 72 was Brandt Snedeker, who has contended in both majors this year. After five bogeys on the first six holes, he was 3 under the rest of the way.

Now for the gloomy side of this opening round.

"It was miserable, miserable, miserable weather," Vijay Singh said after his 80. "It was just a miserable day."

Mickelson, at No. 2 the highest-ranked player at a major for the first time, was not terribly bothered by his 79 because he figured everyone else would struggle. When the winds died slightly, so did his hopes. He was tied for 123rd.

"You can't play," Simon Dyson said after an 82 while playing in the opening group. "You put a 4-handicapper on that first tee and they'd probably shoot 100. That's no exaggeration. I don't think I've played a par 4 that I couldn't reach with my best drive and my best 3-wood, and there's three of them."

Royal & Ancient chief executive Peter Dawson responded to the complaints with a statement as old as this championship.

"Links golf," he said. "Tough day by the seaside."

It was so brutal that two major champions didn't even bother to finish. Sandy Lyle stopped after 10 holes and former PGA cham-

pion Rich Beem made his exit after a 46 on the front.

"It's the greatest golf known to man," Beem said. "It was just difficult."

McDowell considered himself fortunate. The British Open starts at 6:30 a.m. and did not finish until nearly 10 p.m., offering the late starters a chance to tune into the BBC and see how the course is playing.

"I sat at home this morning with my breakfast cereal and cup of coffee in my hand going, 'God, do I really have to go out there this afternoon?' Obviously, we got pretty lucky," McDowell said.

He added to his good fortunes on the 499-yard sixth hole, playing dead into the wind toward the sea, when he got greedy with his second shot out of the rough and advanced it only 10 yards. He had to lay up to 9-iron range, hit that 30 feet and made it for bogey.

"If I made double there, I'm obviously feeling pretty bad about things," McDowell said.

This was a day where a lot of players felt plenty miserable—except for Mediate, of course. Even in the chill of late afternoon, he felt the warmth of the gallery, of another good round and what is shaping up as a magical summer.

"A lot of crazy things have happened the last six weeks," Mediate said.

after he clocked Ogarto with a series of punches three minutes into the second round.

Gary Cruz, meanwhile, extended Rick "2Slik" San Nicolas' losing streak to nine loses after his rear-naked chokehold forced the former Rotary bas-

ketball player to submit at the 3:02 mark of the first round.

In the lone boxing match of the evening, Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez knocked out "No" Angels Santos with a mere eight seconds elapsed in the Round 1.

Derrick "Pinchi" Rangamar

SPORTS BRIEFS

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	57	40	.588	—
Tampa Bay	55	39	.585	1/2
New York	50	45	.526	6
Toronto	47	48	.495	9
Baltimore	45	49	.479	10 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	54	40	.574	—
Minnesota	53	42	.558	1 1/2
Detroit	48	47	.505	6 1/2
Kansas City	43	53	.448	12
Cleveland	41	53	.436	13

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	57	38	.600	—
Oakland	51	44	.537	6
Texas	50	46	.521	7 1/2
Seattle	37	58	.389	20

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	52	44	.542	—
Philadelphia	52	44	.542	—
Florida	50	45	.526	1 1/2
Atlanta	45	50	.474	6 1/2
Washington	36	60	.375	16

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	57	38	.600	—
St. Louis	54	43	.557	4
Milwaukee	52	43	.547	5
Cincinnati	46	51	.474	12
Houston	44	51	.463	13
Pittsburgh	44	51	.463	13

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	47	48	.495	—
Los Angeles	46	49	.484	1
San Francisco	40	55	.421	7
Colorado	40	57	.412	8
San Diego	37	59	.385	10 1/2

Yesteray's Games

Detroit 6, Baltimore 5
N.Y. Mets 10, Cincinnati 8
St. Louis 4, San Diego 3
Colorado 5, Pittsburgh 3

BRITISH OPEN

First Round

Rocco Mediate	69
Graeme McDowell	69
Robert Allenby	69
Greg Norman	70
Adam Scott	70
Bart Bryant	70
Jim Furyk	71
Gregory Hav	



**Semis or bust
for Coca-Cola,
Magnolia**

After staving off elimination and forcing sudden death playoff, coach Binky Favis believes his Coca-Cola Tigers have a little more juice left in their system to complete a sensational comeback.

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Ji Hoon upbeat about POJC

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

CNMI tennis wunderkind Ji Hoon Heo likes his chances in the 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships set from Aug. 13 to 17 at the Dr. Robin Mitchell Tennis Centre in Lautoka, Fiji.

In an email to the *Saipan Tribune*, the Marianas High School student said he is looking forward to challenging for the top spot in the event that saw him finish runner-up last year in the boys' 18-and-under competition.

"The Pacific Oceania Junior Championships is going to be fun and I think I have a great chance to finish first. I finished second last year. It'll be tough to beat my doubles partner from New Caledonia, though," he said.

Aside from the French player, Heo also looks at Fiji's William O'Connell, Vanuatu's Lorenzo Pineda, and Solomon Islands' Duncan Matolola as his other main rivals in the boys' 18-and-under age group.

"Those three are the hard ones to beat but they are all beatable."

While Heo's confidence appears intact three weeks before the start of the Championships, his body is not as the ankle injury he sustained during last month's BNP Paribas de Nouvelle Caledonie tournament in Noumea has not completely healed.

"My ankle is still bad. It is about 75 percent. But I got back to practicing yesterday (Tuesday) but I am still a bit rusty."

Heo warmed up for the 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships by taking part in the International Tennis Federation-sanctioned events—the aforementioned BNP Paribas de Nouvelle Caledonie tournament and the 2008 Air Pacific South Pacific

Open Junior Championships.

Heo and his partner, O'Conner, reached the third round of the Air Pacific South Pacific Open Junior Championships before losing to the vaunted pair of Sam Barr and Stuard Robertson—both of New Zealand—in straight sets, 6-1, 7-5.

Playing with Pineda, Heo meanwhile barged into the quarterfinals of the 2008 Open Junior BNP Paribas de Nouvelle Caledonie tournament. The feat, coupled with a similar success in the singles, allowed Heo to finally get his ITF points and currently he is ranked 1,425 in the list.

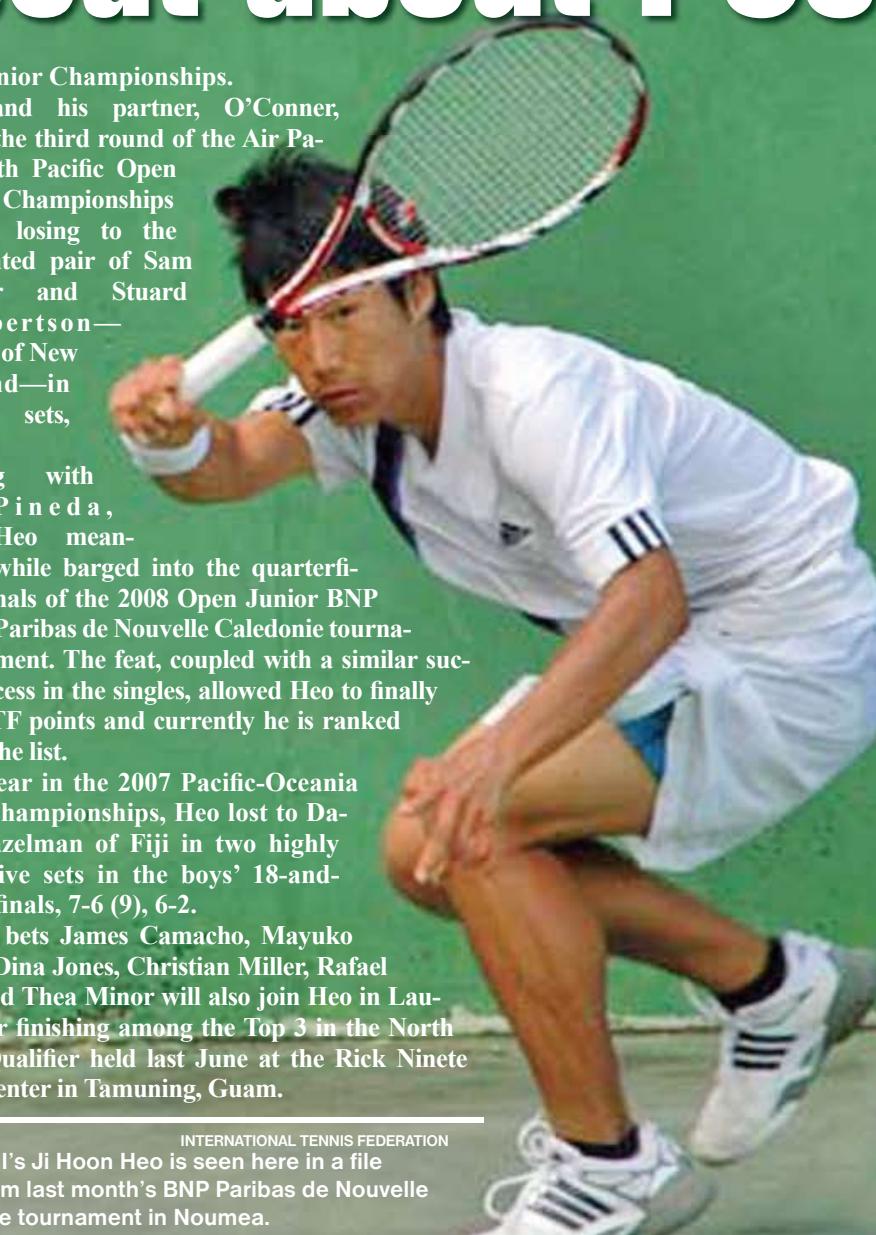
Last year in the 2007 Pacific-Oceania Junior Championships, Heo lost to Danneric Hazelman of Fiji in two highly competitive sets in the boys' 18-and-division finals, 7-6 (9), 6-2.

CNMI bets James Camacho, Mayuko Arriola, Dina Jones, Christian Miller, Rafael Jones, and Thea Minor will also join Heo in Lautoka after finishing among the Top 3 in the North Pacific Qualifier held last June at the Rick Ninete Tennis Center in Tamuning, Guam.

INTERNATIONAL TENNIS FEDERATION

The CNMI's Ji Hoon Heo is seen here in a file photo from last month's BNP Paribas de Nouvelle Caledonie tournament in Noumea.

AP



Mediate in 3-way tie for the lead at British Open



Rocco Mediate of the USA plays from a bunker near the seventh green during the first round of the British Open Golf championship, at the Royal Birkdale golf course, Southport, England, Thursday, July 17, 2008.



SOUTHPORT, England
(AP)—From sunny San Diego to bleak and blustery Royal Birkdale, the expression on Rocco Mediate's

face didn't change.

He watched one final birdie tumble into the cup for a 1-under 69 and a three-way share of the lead in the British Open, straightened his 45-year-old back, then

dropped his jaw into a smile that said, "How did that just happen?"

Others must have been wondering the same thing Thursday.

Ernie Els was playing some of his best golf in the worst of the weather until taking 45 shots on the back nine and posting an 80, his highest score in nearly two decades at his favorite major.

Phil Mickelson was up to his knees in grass right of the sixth green and never found his ball, taking a triple bogey that sent him to a 79.

Robert Allenby and Graeme McDowell, who watched on television as the early starters suffered through raging wind and stinging rain coming off an angry Irish Sea, must have wondered where all that nasty weather went as they made their way around Birkdale in tamer wind to join Mediate atop the leaderboard.

Stranger still was seeing 53-year-old newlywed Greg Norman in the hunt.

Indeed, how did all that happen?

"I have no explanation for that whatsoever. No idea why that happened," said Mediate, still going strong after his epic playoff loss to Tiger Woods last month in the U.S. Open.

"It was just one of those rounds," he

See MEDIATE on Page 27

Tigers use 3 homers to dump Orioles, 6-5

Gary Sheffield and Brandon Inge hit two-run homers, Marcus Thames added a solo shot, and the Detroit Tigers resumed their playoff drive by defeating the Baltimore Orioles 6-5 on Thursday night.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

SGA July Ace tomorrow



The Saipan Golf Association will hold its July Ace of the Month Tournament tomorrow, July 20, at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

Tee time for the club's seventh monthly competition of the year is 9:11am with the club requesting players to show an hour before that for pairings and a brief discussion of rules.

Veteran golfers Mariano Fajardo and Joe Sablan, homerun menace Ned Norita, last year's annual champion Larry Deleon Guerrero, Carl Hocog, and retired judge Edward Manibusan have bragging rights for the first six months of SGA's season as they secured the January, February, March, April, May, and June Ace titles, respectively.

Slots are available for 24 players and SGA said first players to show up early, will definitely be the first to roll the grounds. The club is also advising players to bring extra towels, because Sunday is expected to be a very humid day.

For more information about SGA's July Ace of the Month Tournament, call SGA president Martin Sablan at 483-6278, vice president John Takai at 484-3045, secretary Larry Guerrero at 287-1052, or tournament coordinator Mariano Fajardo at 483-2549. (*Mark Rabago*)

Fan Appreciation Fight Night a hit

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Trench Tech held its Fan Appreciation Fight Night last Saturday at the Trench Tech Gym with the 11 mixed martial arts bouts as well as boxing and kickboxing matches delighting the crowd.

In the first MMA bout, Alverick "Pretty Boy" Alvarez beat Rayon Ray via referee stoppage two minutes and 11 seconds into the first round.

Alvarez was the more aggressive fighter coming out of the corners and caught Ray with a barrage of punches, leaving the third man inside the octagon no choice but to halt the contest in Alvarez's favor.

Carl Jess Takai followed Alvarez's lead in the second MMA match of the evening, as he got Gino "Baka" Asanuma in trouble early and often that led to the latter tapping out at the 1:12 mark of the opening round.

T.J. "Yin Yan" Castro made the right moves in his fight

against Kevin Diaz and he was declared the winner three minutes into the first round after his rear-naked chokehold forced Diaz to submit.

The fourth MMA match of Fan Appreciation Fight Night was over 2:16 into the first round after Tom "Lights Out" Kim proved true to his name. Kim definitely darkened the mood of Sal Limes after the referee called off

the fight following a flurry of punches by Kim jolted Limes.

Fasi "Quickdraw" Jesse also was a victor in his match-up against Joe "Superstar" Lisua after his armlock forced Lisua to submit four minutes and three seconds into the first round.

Kyle Peterson joined the ranks of winners when his rear-naked chokehold was too much for Leon Tasi, who tapped out three minutes and 47 seconds into the opening round.

Chris "No Luv" Laayug had to wait a little longer before

See FAN on Page 27